

B-Cats split

Page 16



FFA 3rd, 5th in contest

Page 12

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

\$1.00

88TH YEAR | VOLUME 45

MARCH 1, 2018

AT A GLANCE

THINGS TO DO

MARCH 1

Fireside Chat: George Peterson at Keller 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. Keller Intermediate School cafeteria

Keller Intermediate School will host the Baker County Historical Society's next Fireside Chat with George Peterson, an original faculty member of the school when it opened as an all-black school in 1956. The historical society's Ashley Westcott said at that time it was the only public school for African-Americans in the county. "These Fireside Chats offer us the unique opportunity to come together as a community, young and old alike, to take in these 'oral heirlooms,'" the email said.

For more information, you can find the event on the Baker County Historical Society's Facebook page or by calling (904) 738-6622. Seating is limited.

MARCH 3

Vintage camper and car show at Heritage Park 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Heritage Park Village Lower St., Macclenny

Heritage Park in Macclenny will host a Vintage Camper and Car Show March 3 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be light refreshments available. Entry is \$5.

MORE ON PAGE 3

SPORTS



Tennis team dominates See page 16



Johnson on to state See page 15

Gazes resigns from BCDC board

Page 5

LIES OF GUN ON CAMPUS

Mother arrested for spreading false claim

A Macclenny woman faces a misdemeanor charge of interfering with school operations for spreading various versions of a report that a young girl at Macclenny Elementary had stashed a gun into her backpack and intended to use it on school grounds.

When Misty Tressler, 24, eventually admitted to campus deputies Michael Lagle and Kelby Crawford that she spread the rumors on February 16, she was ordered to stay off all school sites.

See page 2

BAKER COUNTY COMMISSION

EMS fee put on hold Won't be on '18 bill

MIKE ANDERSON PRESS STAFF

Fire protection could take a bigger bite out of household budgets in Baker County next year but a proposed annual assessment to fund emergency medical services won't happen this year, following a county commission meeting last week.

"I will not agree to assess it for 2018. We've just got too much going on. It's too late in the ballgame for us."

-Property Appraiser Tim Sweat

As part of a long-range plan to hire additional firefighters, buy new equipment and upgrade fire stations, commissioners held a public hearing the evening of February 20 and adopted a resolution setting up the mechanism for collecting "non-ad valorem assessments."

No specific increased amount was levied, as that step in the process is scheduled to occur this summer after legal consultants complete their analysis of the new fee proposal for fiscal year 2018-19 beginning October 1.

One thing is virtually certain, however. The current \$30.50 yearly fire assessment, which the county enacted 20 years ago, will be increased, possibly tripling next year, because it is a relatively simple matter of merely increasing an existing assessment.

The assessment for emergency medical services (EMS), however, is a different matter altogether. The county authorized the funding method several years ago but never actually levied an amount to be

BLACK LEADERS SERIES

Born into the church, loves people

JOEL ADDINGTON MANAGING EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

Joe Ruise was born into the church. He now pastors the same church his father led for 63 years.

"About the age of 12, I got into the faith and started into the ministry right before I was 13. I served my dad for about 30 years as his assistant in the ministry," he recalled this week during a half-hour talk with *The Press* about his history, his faith and the state of the local black community.

"It went on from there," he said.

His father, Ora Ruise Sr., died in 1994 and he was named senior pastor at Emmanuel Church of God in Christ in Macclenny by the jurisdictional bishop of the Pentecostal denomination at that time.

"I love people and love to associate with people," he said. "All my life - I guess it stems from my dad - I've been helping people. I've done a lot of things, carpentry work, masonry work. Throughout the community when people needed things done, I did.

"We thought of it as a ministry. Sometimes people need people to lean



PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON

Joe Ruise, senior pastor at Emmanuel Church of God in Christ in Macclenny.

on and I've been one of those people I guess. I've tried to be a listening ear," he continued. "I just like fellowshiping with people and trying to help people be what I consider better."

Mr. Ruise comes from a large family with 14 brothers and sisters. Some have died off but the remaining siblings still gather to talk and reminisce. They had

little in the way of financial resources, he says, but they were rich in community.

"If we had a hog-killing, we didn't just kill hogs for ourselves. You'd kill enough to distribute to the whole community. I was brought up with that type of thing - helping people who didn't raise pigs or cattle," said the 66-year-old pastor.

He's now planning the next chapter of his life while grooming an assistant pastor to take over leadership of the congregation in the next few years.

"I'm having those thoughts and making plans for my future as a retired pastor. I figure I've got at least four more years for sure, then I'll probably think about leaving the pastoral-type ministry, but not the ministry as such, and continue to be involved in the community," he said. "I love Baker County."

Mr. Ruise went on to college after graduating high school but later dropped out and was drafted by the Army, serving as a military policeman. He then turned down a pastoral post in Oklahoma to work with his father back home.

See page 3

See page 3

Don't forget to go vote ...

Should the age to purchase AR-15s be increased from 18 to 21 or higher?

61% Yes

30% No

9% Undecided

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8907648819 8

Lies: Gun on campus

From page 1

Four days later, when Principal Sherry Barrett fielded a phone call from another frantic parent who had recently spoken with Ms. Tressler, she was located and arrested.

The suspect, who lives in the Black-bottom section of the southeast county, reportedly has two children at the school in north Macclenny.

Deputy Lagle's report indicates she told him and school officials she did so because she "wanted to create a panic at the school to see what the school would do, what type of security they had, and if the school would notify all the parents by phone to let them know about the gun."

The officer said he fielded a call about midday on February 16 from Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson, who had been alerted by owner Tiffany Rafuse at Safari Tan, a beauty salon, that Ms. Tressler mentioned the rumor while there for a hair appointment.

During a later interview at the school, Ms. Tressler said she overheard an elderly couple at Hardee's that morning speak of a "female student with short brown bobbed hair" and a gun in her backpack.

The suspect then told another version, that patrons at the beauty shop asked her if she knew about the report and said "police were all over the place" at Macclenny Elementary.

Deputy Lagle then called Ms. Rafuse to verify that, and was told that Ms. Tressler entered while they were discussing the Parkland, FL massacre two days earlier and said her 6-year-

old son phoned her from the school to report a 9-year-old had a gun "and was going to start shooting."

She claimed that she went to the campus to calm him down and "police were everywhere."



Misty Tressler

Principal Barrett asked to speak to Ms. Tressler alone, then emerged to inform the deputies that she admitted fabricating the story to test the reaction.

She wasn't charged until four days later when the other mother phoned the principal to say Ms. Tressler asked her if she had a child at the school, then said her son saw a girl with a gun and she wasn't allowed to go back to the campus.

Major Randy Crews of the sheriff's department said no added security measures were employed that day because deputies were skeptical of the suspect's credibility.

"Her statement was determined to be false rather quickly," he stated.

In an unrelated incident, Deputy Crawford arrested a 16-year-old male student at Baker County High School after Principal Allen Murphy found two knives in his backpack.

Knives are considered weapons and banned from the campus. The offense is a third-degree felony, and the boy told the officer he had no thoughts to harm others or himself. He said he purchased them at a Jacksonville flea market.

Prior grad scholarships

The Baker County Education Foundation is pleased to offer four scholarships worth between \$500 and \$1000 for prior graduates of Baker County High School.

Applicants must be current residents of the county, and each scholarship has specific guidelines. Applications and more details are available at the school superintendent's office at 270 South Blvd. in Macclenny.

The application deadline is Friday, April 13 at 3 p.m. for submission to the office. Call Shirley Crawford at 259-0428 for more information.

CHECK IT OUT...
bakercountypress.com

Report of threat at BCMS

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

A male middle school student was accused of threatening to shoot one or more female students last week, but the male denied the allegation, and with no other witnesses to the alleged threat, the male student was not arrested or charged, sheriff's office officials confirmed this week.

"We did an investigation and we determined that there was nothing there that would deem us to be able to file charges at this time," said Major Randy Crews Tuesday afternoon.

In a joint statement released following inquiries by *The Press* that were prompted by an anonymous caller the same day, Sheriff Scotty Rhoden and Superintendent of Schools Sherrie Raulerson said they've had several meetings in recent weeks to discuss school safety and review recent proposals by state lawmakers and the governor to boost school safety.

"We are committed to working together to implement safety measures that will make our schools safe for our children and staff," the statement said, before addressing in general terms the allegation of threats at the middle school involving firearms and a false report of a student with a gun at Macclenny Elementary [see related on page 1 and continued at left].

"Over the past week, some incidents have been reported to the sheriff's office and school officials. These incidents were investigated thoroughly and the necessary action deemed appropriate was taken," the statement said.

It's unclear whether the accused student at the middle school or his accusers were disciplined.

The statement said federal law prohibits school districts from commenting on disciplinary actions taken against students. The superintendent did not respond by press time to a request for confirmation that anyone was punished for the alleged incident there.

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spotlight on ART



By Makenna Payne, age 12.

A drunk driver ruined something precious.
Amber Apodaca.

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.

AAUW

The Baker County Press Weather

Five Day Forecast

Thursday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 83 Low: 53

Friday
Mostly Sunny
High: 71 Low: 43

Saturday
Sunny
High: 68 Low: 41

Sunday
Sunny
High: 67 Low: 43

Monday
Sunny
High: 69 Low: 45

Tuesday
Sunny
High: 73 Low: 49

Wednesday
Cloudy
High: 68 Low: 44

Today's High & Low Temperatures

Last Week's Local Almanac

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Precipitation
Tue, 2/20	84	57	72/44	0.00"	0.04"
Wed, 2/21	86	66	72/44	0.00"	0.80"
Thu, 2/22	82	57	72/45	0.00"	-0.76"
Fri, 2/23	82	55	72/45	0.00"	71.3°
Sat, 2/24	84	57	73/45	0.00"	58.6°
Sun, 2/25	84	63	73/45	0.00"	+12.7°
Mon, 2/26	82	59	73/45	0.04"	

Data as reported from Cecil Field Airport

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Phase
Thursday	6:54 a.m.	6:27 p.m.	Full 3/1
Friday	6:53 a.m.	6:28 p.m.	
Saturday	6:52 a.m.	6:28 p.m.	
Sunday	6:51 a.m.	6:29 p.m.	
Monday	6:50 a.m.	6:30 p.m.	Last 3/9
Tuesday	6:48 a.m.	6:30 p.m.	
Wednesday	6:47 a.m.	6:31 p.m.	First 3/24

St. Mary's River Levels

Location	Now	Change
Moniac, GA	6.82 ft.	-0.18 ft.
Macclenny	5.42 ft.	-0.22 ft.

Hunting/Fishing Times

Day	Peak Times	
	AM	PM
Thu	11:00-1:00	11:28-1:28
Fri	11:55-1:55	12:21-2:21
Sat	12:46-2:46	1:12-3:12
Sun	1:36-3:36	2:00-4:00
Mon	2:24-4:24	2:48-4:48
Tue	3:12-5:12	3:35-5:35
Wed	3:59-5:59	4:22-6:22

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Weather History

March 1, 1910 - The deadliest avalanche of record in the United States thundered down the mountains near Wellington Station, Wash. It swept three huge locomotive train engines and some passenger cars over the side and into a canyon, claiming the lives of more than 100 people.

EMS fees: Won't be assessed until 2019

From page 1

collected, leaving it at zero.

A similar resolution on the commission agenda pertaining to "non-ad valorem assessments" for EMS was postponed until next year after Property Appraiser Tim Sweat said he could not send out tax notices including an EMS assessment in November this year.

"We've sought some legal advice from our attorney," Mr. Sweat said, "and it's my understanding that for me to assess it I have to agree by March 1 in order to do that for the 2018-19 tax roll for EMS."

He said he simply wouldn't have sufficient time to gear up for the additional workload and computer programming involved in adding another new assessment for this coming fiscal year.

"I will not agree to assess it for 2018," he said. "We've just got too much going on. It's too late in the ballgame for us. We're going through a conversion in our computer system."

Furthermore, Mr. Sweat said, too many unanswered questions remain from the county, adding, "We can't do a job if we don't know what to do. It's pretty late in the ballgame to get it done at this point and do it accurately."

Fire assessment notices will be mailed to property owners this summer after the fee amount is calculated and the county commission will schedule a public hearing on the measure before the new budget is finalized

in September.

The resolutions were placed on the commission agenda last week upon the advice of Stephen Roe, an attorney with the law firm of Bryant Miller Olive in Tallahassee, which specializes in advising local governments on the imposition of special assessments and impact fees.

The firm was hired by the county to calculate fire and EMS assessments, both of which were recommended by a citizen Fire-EMS Vision Committee to raise additional revenue for public safety improvements.

County commissioners have set a potential course for incremental increases in fire assessments over seven years beginning with a hefty hike up to about \$91 the first year.

Mr. Roe told commissioners that a resolution may not have been necessary to collect higher fire assessments because the mechanism for collecting the fees has existed for two decades, similar to the collection of solid waste disposal assessments on tax bills.

But because of vagueness in state statutes and case law on the matter, he said he recommends the adoption of resolutions for increased assessments, as well as new assessment levies.

"In an abundance of caution I always recommend to go ahead and do it to avoid any kind of dispute about it later," he said, in case someone challenges an assessment on grounds that the county did not technically

meet the statutory requirements.

Of course, the attorney said, the county "always has the liberty" to enact a special assessment without any involvement of the property appraiser or tax collector by direct billing property owners and collecting the fees on its own.

Commissioners said no way.

"I've said it before and I'll say it again," Commissioner James Bennett said. "Anything that puts us having to do a separate collection I'm opposed to it. We would create more problems for ourselves."

Moreover, he said, "I don't think we're ready for the one for EMS. It's not even one I'm willing to continue considering for this year. Rome wasn't built in a day and we need to think about how we need to process this."

Others agreed, including Commissioner Jimmy Anderson who said, "As far as collecting it ourselves that's not an option to me. I agree with Mr. Bennett on that. If it's not going to go through the tax collector and property appraiser's office then I will not support it. That's their specialty."

In that case, if the commission insists on having the appraiser and tax collector involved in the process, Mr. Roe said resolutions required by state statutes governing non-ad valorem assessments must be adopted "expressing your intent to do so."

"It doesn't impose the assessment," he said. "It

doesn't actually put the charge in place, nor does it obligate the board to move forward with the assessment. It merely acts as a placeholder, or reservation, in case you take additional steps in the future to adopt the charge you can collect it on the following tax bill, in this case November of 2018."

The attorney also stated that if a resolution of intent to levy and collect EMS assessments (in 2019-20) is adopted by the county commission by the end of December this year, no consent would be necessary from the property appraiser or tax collector.

"We're in that window now so that after December 31 (2017) to utilize the tax collection method, particularly for EMS assessment, you have to get the consent of the property appraiser and tax collector," Mr. Roe said, adding that state law requires the collection method to be determined first, followed by the "imposition process."

Commissioners acknowledged they understood the required procedures could protect the county against any legal challenges.

"This is just a legal precaution to ensure that nobody can say we didn't follow the correct process ... and that it's legally defensible in court," said Commissioner Bennett.

Mr. Roe said his firm will take a big load off the property appraiser's office by "crunching the numbers" in

calculating the new fire assessment and ensuring that the public is fully informed about the fees and their right to contest them at a public hearing.

"We will prepare the assessment roll. We will do all the calculations," he said, adding that after the property appraiser sends out Truth in Millage (TRIM) notices in August of upcoming taxes the county must mail additional public notices to property owners containing the date and time of a public hearing soon afterward to discuss the measure.

With the fire assessment issue settled to everyone's satisfaction during last week's board meeting, the property appraiser assured commissioners that he would cooperate with the county next year to implement the initial EMS assessment.

"I don't recommend doing anything different than what we've been doing," said Mr. Sweat, explaining that the county building department levied and collected fire assessments the first three years but he and the tax collector have assumed the responsibilities ever since.

"In 1990 the property appraiser's office started assessing and the tax collector started collecting," he told commissioners. "I think it works great now. Whatever you decide before December 31 we'll do our best to accommodate for the coming year."

▶ THINGS TO DO

From page 1

MARCH 6

Tools to quit tobacco class
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

The health department will host a one-day Tools to Quit tobacco class on March 6, 2018 from 5-7 p.m. Free materials and nicotine replacements.

MARCH 9

FCWS dinner, silent auction with Mike Williams
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

First Coast Women's Services will be holding its 6th annual dinner and auction Friday, March 9 at First Baptist Macclenny. Doors open at 6 p.m. for silent auction items with dinner and program at 7 p.m. Some of the items are: 4 tickets to SeaWorld and water park, zoo tickets, escape room tickets, wildcat game season tickets, and great basket items from our local merchants. There will be a live auction too. The speaker is comedian Mike Williams with a great pro-life message.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

Monday - Saturday @ 8 pm
8981 S. SR 228, Macclenny
Monday @ 6:30 pm
93 N. 5th St., Macclenny

Joe Ruise: Born into church

From page 1

"There's no other place like it. We have our ills but I still love Baker County," he said.

In his view, one of the biggest challenges facing the black community here is the plight of its youth and lure of drugs.

"For whatever reason, we've been hit hard by the drug culture that we deal with on a weekly, daily basis with kids getting into that," said Mr. Ruise. "But I think for the most part, especially with the older generation, we have a vision for our young people, so we keep trying to teach."

The long-time pastor and leader in the black community had four children with his first wife of 37 years before she died of a heart attack in 2009. He remarried six years ago and added three step-children atop his family.

Together he and his wife have some 16 grandchildren. Among his role models were his father, his uncle Mack Ruise and other leaders in the local black community.

There was his cousin King Ruise, the first black college graduate from Baker County who went on to become a

teacher.

"He impacted my life a lot because of all the things he accomplished as a black man in the community that were positive to me," said Mr. Ruise.

He also credited a former teacher, George Peterson, for being "very instrumental" in shaping his future.

"He was always a positive type person pushing me toward success, telling me I could be a good minister," said Mr. Ruise.

He drew inspiration from black businessmen, too, like brothers Edgar and Willie Lewis. The former brother owned real estate while the latter owned a store that used to site across the street from his church where Keller Intermediate School is now.

"These kinds of business people helped shape my life and let me know I could be successful right at home," Mr. Ruise said.

While his father dabbled in politics, his uncle was more politically driven. Mr. Ruise recalls driving the men around, soaking up their views and learning from them.

"My dad got involved with politics a little bit but not a lot. But my uncle Mack, a lot of politicians looked to him

for support and advice," he said. "I was kind of like their chauffeur, so I got involved by following them and taking them places."

Looking to the future, Mr. Ruise would like to see more young black men from this area finishing their education and more young men and women remaining in the county rather than leaving for careers elsewhere.

"We tend to get young women educated and hopefully we can get them back into our county to become positive role models, whether it be in teaching or business," he said. "I'd also like to see younger people get involved in the political side of the county so we can address some of our issues."

One of those frustrations, he said, is the lack of black elected officials. That leads some to feel they're not well represented in local government, he says.

For the most part, however, Mr. Ruise sees the local black community as a vibrant one that comes together to support one another.

"There was a great turnout last night at a family and friends day at a church in Sanderson. Almost every church was represented there," said Mr. Ruise.

Two DUI arrests in one hour

A Florida state trooper made a pair of drunk driving arrests of Baker County motorists within hours of each other during the early morning hours of February 24.

Both of the arrests were the result of traffic stops by local deputies.

Trooper J.E. Farley charged Christopher Crews, 33, of Macclenny after he refused to submit to sobriety testing or take a breath test.

Mr. Crews was at the wheel of a 2001 Chevrolet pickup stopped by Deputy Jeffrey Davis in downtown Macclenny about 2 a.m. for an inoperable headlight. He displayed signs of impairment and admitted he shouldn't be driving after consuming both beer and liquor at a tavern.

An hour later Cpl. Marc Heath stopped a 2008 Hyundai on U.S. 90 west of Glen St. Mary after observing it swerving in and out of the travel lane and nearly strike a road sign.

Preston Kneen, 37, of Sanderson failed field sobriety testing and his blood-alcohol measured .190, over twice the legal limit.

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Sunday 5:00, 7:15
Wednesday-Thursday 7:30

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CIRCUIT COURT

Ex-con back to prison for battery

A Margaretta man with a lengthy record of convictions for violent and drug-related crimes and two prior prison sentences drew a 42-month term on February 20 when he pleaded no contest to felony battery by a repeat offender.

Leonard Lee Jr., 35, was originally charged with ag-



Leonard Lee Jr.

gravated battery causing great bodily harm for critically injuring another man

during a fight in mid-June, 2017 that resulted in the death of Victor Givens of the same neighborhood.

Mr. Lee's brother Antonio is expected to enter a plea in circuit court soon for killing Mr. Givens, who witnesses said had stepped into the line of fire to defuse a fracas that began earlier outside Cuz's One Stop liquor store in Sanderson.

Leonard Lee's record includes battery, sale and possession of controlled drugs and cocaine, discharging a firearm in public, bringing contraband into county jail and other offenses. He served time in the state system from 2007-10 and again from 2013-15, all for cocaine sales and possession.

Circuit Judge James Co-

law the same day ordered another chronic drug offender to prison for 30.9 months for selling opium or derivative pills to undercover buyers last year.

Alyssa Graves, 26, is already serving a 28-month prison term for violating an earlier probation for having controlled drugs, bringing contraband into jail and tampering with evidence. She was sentenced in September, a month after her arrest during a traffic stop with prescription drugs and a weighing scale.

She will serve the new



Alyssa Graves

sentence concurrently.

In other pleas resulting in prison sentences during that court session, which lasted into the evening:

- The judge ordered Melvin Norman, 50, of Glen St. Mary to serve nearly 22 months for felony battery on his estranged wife last November at his residence on Cedar Creek Farms Road.

Mr. Norman, who has past convictions for battery and domestic battery, along with drunk driving, strangled Julie Crews to the point of unconsciousness to prevent her from leaving. He has past arrests in Baker County for domestic battery in 2016, 2004 and 2007 but was never prosecuted.

- Derrick Brantley, 43, admitted to violating a three-year probation from last August for possession of an illegal weapon and will serve two years.

BAKER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Architect suggests 'piggybacking' to beat 'glut' market

JOEL ADDINGTON

MANAGING EDITOR

reporter@bakercountypress.com

The construction industry in the region is booming so much that the Baker County school district has not been getting qualified bidders to compete for needed repairs on buildings.

The solution, proposed by district facilities management director Denny Wells at the recommendation of consulting architect Bill Bishop during a workshop with the school board last week: piggyback on the continuing services contracts of other districts or colleges.

They said the evening of February 20 that doing so would not obligate the district to hire any particular contractors, but would speed up the procurement process by a few weeks and, perhaps, generate interest among firms already vetted and under contract by larger entities.

Mr. Wells explained that after bidding a roof repair of the "Title I building" on South Boulevard between the superintendent's office and the PreK-K Center, only one bid was received and it was very high.

"We had two companies look at it, and one turned in the bid," explained Mr. Wells. "Bill Bishop thought it was incredibly high, so Bill mentioned piggybacking off other district's or junior college's roofing contracts..."

He said a negotiated price would be presented to district finance manager Marcelle Richardson and the school board before signing a contract.

"We're under no obligation to take it. We can go back and bid it another way, the old way," said Mr. Wells.

Mr. Bishop explained that 15 or 20 years ago the state started permitting school districts to use long-term contracts for construction services for up to \$2 million per project. He said it was a change prompted by growing state universities that needed to build new, larger facilities quickly.

Mr. Bishop said that the roofing job on the Title I building was viewed by qualified bidders as a "dinky job," even with a budget of some \$40,000-\$50,000.

"Roofers are so busy they still have a backlog from the hurricane (Irma), so we're not getting the market participation. It's not worth the effort of going through the bid process without knowing they'd get it," said Mr. Bishop, adding that the sole bidder for the Title I building included high labor costs. He said the bidder was likely, "just throwing out a number."

That became apparent, however, after he contacted the bidder once the bid was open.

Under a piggybacking scenario, Mr. Bishop said,

he would be in a better position to review contractor estimates to "make sure it's right," which he can't do through the normal bidding process.

He said by piggybacking another district's contract, he would be able to negotiate after an initial estimate and perhaps get a better price for the work before the district signs a contract.

"It just gives you another option that allows us to, in a sense, better manage the pricing of smaller projects, especially now in a tight construction market," the architect said.

After a few questions from the school board, members decided to give the approach a shot.

"I think this would expedite the process," said member Paula Barton.

Mr. Bishop hopes to solicit interest in a combined roofing job at the Title I building and a wing at Keller Intermediate School, both of which are "ready to go pending on how we put it out to market."

"Sounds like a good solution to a rather thorny problem," said board member Patricia Weeks, adding she trusts Mr. Bishop to get the best price on jobs for the district.

"We'll give it a whirl and see where it goes," said the consultant.

In other business last week, the school board:

- Approved an amendment to its "Master Inservice Plan," that will give teachers bonus points toward their teaching certificate renewal for working at a state-approved "School of Excellence."

Schools are eligible for the designation after keeping school grades of A or B for at least the last three years and ranking at the 80th percentile or higher among schools of the same type (grade grouping) for at least two of the last three years.

The only schools in the district with three consecutive A or B grades are Westside and Macclenny elementary schools.

The 2017-18 school year is the first year for which the additional 20 "in-service points" can be used for certificate renewal. Teachers can receive up to 60 points in a five-year cycle.

- Approved a trip for BCHS football coaches Jamie Rodgers, head coach, and Brock Canaday, the assistant coach, to attend the Gulf Coast Regional Football Clinic in Gulfport, Mississippi February 21-23.

- Recognized the academic achievers from Keller Intermediate School, retirees Rosemary Farnesi, hired in 2000, Paula Clardy, hired in 1991, Wilahmena Laura-more, hired in 1987, Sandra Johns, hired in 1988 and Susan Wheeler Johnson, hired in 2006; and the Baker Bots robotics team from the middle school.

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BAKER COUNTY COMMISSION

Broughton will replace Gazes on BCDC

Recent board action cited as the cause for quitting

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

The abrupt resignation of real estate developer Chris Gazes from the board of directors for the county jail's nonprofit owner was reluctantly accepted by the county commission during its meeting on February 20.

He served 10 months of a two-year term as board treasurer.

"Please accept this as my resignation from the Baker Correctional Development Corporation. Recent board action has made me aware that I can no longer be a productive member," said Mr. Gazes in an email he sent February 8 to Commissioner James Croft, who had nominated the former banking executive for the position.

In a subsequent request to County Manager Kenzie Downing to place the item on last week's commission agenda, Mr. Croft expressed disappointment over Mr. Gazes' departure as the BCDC board struggles to solve a financial crisis by re-financing high-interest bond debt.

"I'm sorry to report that Chris Gazes submitted his resignation as a (BCDC) director ... I have spoken with him and his decision is final," Mr. Croft said in an email to the county manager.

Mr. Gazes of Glen St. Mary, owner of a Jacksonville-based real estate development company, offered no detailed explanation for his decision to leave the BCDC management team. He didn't respond to an email from *The Press* requesting more details on the decision.

However, during the last meeting of the BCDC board of directors, Mr. Gazes ex-

pressed reservations about a plan to hire a full-time accountant who would report directly to the board but also be an employee of the sheriff's office. He commented that wouldn't be much different than the current financial management structure.

"I can't see how they could do that under the same organizational structure," said Mr. Gazes on February 7.

Mr. Gazes voted for the plan about 15 minutes later, however, after other board members

voiced support for moving forward with the hire with the understanding that BCDC's contract with the sheriff's office would be amended to reflect the intended chain-of-command — that the accountant would report directly to the board rather than the sheriff.

Today sheriff's office finance manager Jeffrey Cox also oversees BCDC's day-to-day finances. Both Sheriff Scotty Rhoden and Mr. Cox supported the plan to hire another accountant to work solely on BCDC's finances.

Mr. Gazes left that meeting early without explanation.

Last week, immediately after accepting Mr. Gazes resignation, the commission reappointed Mark Broughton, whose one-year term was scheduled to become a four-year term on May 2, to serve the remaining 14 months in Mr. Gazes' slot.

Mr. Broughton then asked to address the board to explain his reasons for wanting to remain on the board until next year but no longer.

"My wife and I talked and prayed a lot about this," he said. "What's going on at the BCDC is difficult — at best. There are three reasons I decided to continue doing this. No. 1, I don't like quitting something I started until it's finished.

"No. 2, the guys that I'm serving with are some of the

most intelligent people I've ever worked with. You've got some of the brightest people I know. Chris Gazes leaving is a sad thing; he's very, very bright. But it is what it is.

"And the third reason is this guy right here," he said, gesturing toward Sheriff

Rhoden, who recently completed his first year in office. "We've got a sheriff that wants to make this work. We may not always like what we see but we've got a group of people that want to make this work."

He said he believed the board eventually will solve BCDC's financial crisis, which largely will depend upon restructuring the organization's massive debt to obtain a lower interest rate and reverse a negative cash flow trend.

But it won't be easy, he said.

"I'm going to tell you right now it's an uphill battle," said Mr. Broughton, owner of a national payroll service business and founder of a zip line adventure park near Sanderson two years ago. "We're in a bad way and y'all need to know that.

"It is not easy, and I can tell you this, Jim McGauley (owner/publisher of *The Baker County Press* in a February 15 editorial on the BCDC financial plight) had it right. If this was a business that I could invest in, it wouldn't happen."

Mr. Broughton then alluded to a troubling concern he had recently discussed with the county attorney concerning BCDC's finances but declined to elaborate.

"So, board, be aware of where we are," he said. "I outlined something Sunday to the attorney that was overwhelming me and at some point, it will come to light. But be aware that this is not pretty. As a businessman when you have negative cash flow you're at negative cash flow, and cash is king. We can't live on accruals."



Chris Gazes

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Sex offender failed to notify

The sheriff's department arrested a convicted sex offender on February 22 for not reporting that he was sharing a rented residence with another man off Stacey Barber Road in south Macclenny.

Detective Robert Simpkins said he was alerted by landlady Ana Tracer that Darrell Henderson II, 34, had moved in with Derek Griffis, 57, into a rental unit on her property. She had been tipped off on Mr. Henderson's status and confirmed on the FDLE website that had his last known address as homeless in Baldwin.

Mr. Henderson was declared a sex offender in 2013, and as such must report to authorities when he changes addresses.

The landlady was particularly concerned because her juvenile-age granddaughter resides with her.

The detective visited the rental unit and confirmed from Mr. Griffis that Mr. Henderson had been living there four months.

When questioned at Firehouse Subs where he is employed, Mr. Henderson at first claimed he was still in Baldwin, then admitted to living in Macclenny when the detective told him he had spoken with Mr. Griffis.

The violation is a third-degree felony.

In a non-related arrest, Kelly Brogdon, 46, of Glen St. Mary was charged on February 20 with attempted smuggling of cigarettes into county jail on behalf of her inmate son Dakota Canaday.

A recorded phone call from the son to his mother tipped off authorities that Ms. Brogdon planned to place five packs of cigarettes under the toolbox of a truck issued to Auzzie Johns, a BCSO employee, while it was parked at his north Macclenny residence.

The contraband was intercepted instead and Mr. Canaday, in jail for possession of a short-barreled shotgun and other offenses, claimed he could get up to \$100 a pack from fellow inmates.



Darrell Henderson

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COUNTY RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Vows to step up efforts on parks and recreation

**MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF**

The leader of Baker County's Recreation Advisory Board told the county commission last week that the citizen panel is stepping up efforts to make the county's parks and recreation system something to be proud of for generations to come.

Lucious Lee, board chairman, said even he prefers to take his family to visit parks outside of Baker County because recreational amenities elsewhere are cleaner and more attractive.

He said the board's goals for the coming year include scheduling fund raisers and seeking out grants, private and corporate donations, and volunteers to help repair or replace old, worn out recreation equipment and clean

up public parks.

"We want to make our parks more inviting," Mr. Lee said.

The goals include major facilities, such as the 2464-acre St. Mary's River Shoals Park, as well as smaller community parks throughout the county.

Not only making parks more visually appealing, but also making them safer is part of the Recreation Advisory Board's (RAB) plan for the future by discouraging people from drinking alcoholic beverages at county parks, Mr. Lee said.

He said the group wants to post signs at all parks clearly and emphatically displaying rules and regulations governing behavior, starting with "No Alcoholic Beverages Allowed."

"We want to make our parks more inviting."

—Board chairman Lucious Lee



Stepped up patrols around community parks by the Baker County Sheriff's Office would also be helpful to ensure enforcement of the rules, Mr. Lee said.

Commissioners expressed their personal appreciation to Mr. Lee and other RAB members for their civic spirit and willingness to sacrifice their own time to benefit the county and its citizens.

Commissioner Jimmy Anderson, who recommended the commission appoint a recreation advisory panel three years ago to help steer the county's parks and recreation system in a positive direction, said he was particularly proud of the work the group has done.

"It was my vision," he said.

Commissioner James Croft, who has not always supported the expenditure of county taxes on recreation, also thanked RAB members

for their efforts to save the county money through volunteer projects, noting that their motivation is "to work with the community..."

Part of the group's visionary plans, according to Mr. Lee, is to review a 2011 management plan for Shoals Park that includes kiosks, three canoe launches/picnic areas and trailhead facilities, recreation and education programs and regional park facilities including ball fields and an athletic clubhouse.

After familiarizing itself completely with the plan, which was part of the original deal with the Florida Communities Trust when the parkland was donated to the county in 2004, Mr. Lee said the board will endeavor to recommend ways to accomplish some of the proposed improvements.

After receiving Mr. Lee's report commissioners appointed a new member to the board, Tony Talbert, who Mr. Lee said submitted the only application to join the panel in the past year.

Mr. Talbert, a superintendent in the commercial construction industry, will join his son, Paul, who previously was appointed to the Recreation Advisory Board.

The senior Talbert said he wants to be involved in the planning and achieving of recreational opportunities in Baker County for his and every other family in the county. He also said he would encourage other volunteers to step forward.

He briefly stated his reasons for seeking the appointment on his application.

"I wish to make an impact on recreational opportunities in Baker County for not only myself but my grandkids," he said. "For them to enjoy things in Baker County and not to always travel away

from Baker County."

Commissioners also last week:

- Awarded bids totaling \$189,000 for the rehabilitation or new construction of three homes for low income families in the county's State Housing Initiatives Partnership, or SHIP, program, which provides state funds to assist local governments in the improvement of housing conditions for needy applicants.

The three projects, all in Sanderson, were: \$38,400 for repairs to a residence on CR 127; \$73,800 to build a new 900-square-foot house on Clayton Avenue; and \$76,800 to build a 1000-square-foot house on Lane Avenue. The prices all included new wells and septic tanks.

In all three cases the commission approved requests to exceed maximum spending limits totaling \$23,000, mainly due to well and septic tanks that were not included in construction bids. One of the overages also totaled \$3000 to remove trees and clean up the Lane Avenue property where a large pecan tree fell onto the house during Hurricane Irma last year.

Commissioner Bennett, though he supported the appropriations, clearly was not pleased by the bids.

"Maybe we need to rethink our limits," he said, "instead of having to override our policy every time."

He noted that the construction bids came in at or very near the maximum limits, \$36,000 for rehabilitation and \$65,000 for new construction, while separate bids were received from the same individual, Dwight Jones, for well and septic work.

"We're piecemealing bids," Commissioner Bennett said. "You can't go in and bid half of a project and it looks like that's what we're doing."

"That's the way it's always been done," said Melissa Richardson, the county's SHIP administrator.

"Well, it doesn't mean it

should be allowed to continue," replied the commissioner, who said he was not being critical of Ms. Richardson, but rather the bidding process.

- Adopted a resolution endorsing a plan by the Florida Department of Transportation to replace the bridge across Mud Lake Swamp on Clet Harvey Road. No cost estimates or work schedule were available.

Although Baker County is certified to do the work itself county officials said financial constraints led them to ask FDOT to build the bridge, which the resolution stated will "allow for greater efficiency, innovation, cost, time savings and other reasons that allow for optimal project delivery."

- Authorized the county manager to spend \$7155.49 to repair drywall and ceiling damage in the building housing the tax collector, property appraiser and supervisor of elections offices caused by roof leaks.

The roof has been repaired and is no longer leaking, said County Manager Kennie Downing, but she said the additional money is needed "for removal of the water-damaged drywall and related services."

"A separate bid will be forthcoming for re-drywalling the areas," she said in a report to the board. "All work will be coordinated with the Property Appraiser, Tax Collector and Supervisor of Elections to minimize as much work disruption as possible."

- Approved the expenditure of \$59,242 to replace flooring material in the offices of the tax collector and property appraiser, including about \$13,330 that should be reimbursable from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) due to damages caused by Hurricane Irma.

- Scheduled 3 p.m. budget goals and strategic workshops at the March 6 and March 20 commission meetings to begin preparing for a new budget in 2018-19, beginning on October 1.

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Notice of Public Disclosure of the Full Cost of Solid Waste within the City of Macclenny

Pursuant to Rule 62.708, Florida Administrative Code, the Macclenny City Commissioners of Macclenny, Florida discloses the following Full Cost of Solid Waste Management for residential and non-residential users during the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

2016-2017	
Number of Residents	2,228
Number of Businesses	289
Total	2,517
Charge per Residence	\$231.00-\$313.20
Charge per Business (Based on cubic yard volume)	\$353.28-\$7,715.64
Solid Waste Management Cost for City	\$797,959.00
Solid Waste Special Assessment Collections from Residences and Businesses	\$977,939.00
Balance Funded from other Revenue Sources	\$0

COUNTY COURT

Dispositions on February 21

The following dispositions were ordered by Judge Joey Williams in county court on February 21:

- Joseph Barr, DUI .15 or higher and driver under 18; two days in jail, six-month probation, 60-day monitoring, participate in MADD events, attend group addiction meetings, 50 hours community service.
- David Cannon, petty theft; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Pamela Church, resisting arrest; 19 days in jail.
- Melissa Dean, trespass, refusal to leave, disorderly conduct, simple battery; six-month probation, 25 hours community service, anger

management class.

- Nina Fogarty, petty theft; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Kyle Hinson, false report to law authority and public official; 30 days in jail.
- Larry Holt, possession of drug paraphernalia; one day in jail, six-month probation, 50 hours community service, attend group addiction meetings, no alcohol or drugs.
- Jessica Jones, DUI with injury or property damage (two counts); Give Back to Baker (GBB) community service, pen impact statement, attend MADD events and group addiction meetings, apology letter.
- Malcolm Mathews, driv-

ing on a suspended or revoked license (DWLS); court costs, \$500 fine.

- William Padgett, petty theft, fraud with false receipt; six-month probation, petty theft class, hold sign in front of retailer.
- Jason Perkins, no valid driver's license; charge dropped.
- Justin Raiford, marijuana possession; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Stephanie Roenisch, possession of drug paraphernalia; failed to appear, warrant issued.
- Ira Thompson III, petty theft; six-month probation, petty theft class, hold sign in front of retailer.
- Jeremy Watts, requesting refund with a false receipt; charge dropped.
- Charles Davis, DUI; court costs.

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Fewer parking slots for small stores

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
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The county's Land Planning Agency (LPA) appears poised to approve a reduction in the parking requirements for what's being called "small box" retail stores.

The reduction discussed last week is not large, but would cut the number of spaces required per 1000 square feet from five parking spaces to four for small retail establishments.

The conversation came the evening February 22 at the behest of Chris Milton, the county's community development director who provides administrative support to the LPA board.

Last year Mr. Milton negotiated a deal with the developer of two new Dollar General stores in Sanderson and Cuyler that reduced the number of required parking spaces.

In exchange for less parking, the developer agreed to alter the stores' facades to give them a more rural, country-store appearance, save some trees at the Sanderson location and use a monument sign that sits on the ground instead of a pylon sign mounted on tall metal poles at the Cuyler site.

A study presented at that time by the developer, Concept Development, Inc. of Jacksonville, stated that 3.1 spaces per 1000 square feet was adequate for "free-standing discount retail stores" in Florida based on data from the Florida Department of Transportation, which looked at vehicle volume and parking space turnover at a Dollar General store in Monticello, FL.

The review found that on average customers only spent about 15-20 minutes shopping before leaving the store. The study noted that most municipal parking requirements in Florida are based on the needs of larger retailers with bigger footprints like grocery stores and superstores where longer shopping trips are common.

Concept Development used the study to support a parking variance request for the Dollar General stores here. The firm requested approval for 35 spaces, or about 3.8 parking spaces per 1000 square feet, for the 9100-square-foot stores.

County commissioners would later approve plans for both stores.

The whole exercise led Mr. Milton to propose potential amendments to the county's Land Development Regulations (LDRs) to accommodate similar development. After researching rules in other counties he presented draft language to four LPA board members last week.

According to Mr. Milton's report to the board, the county's current regulations call for four spaces per 1000 square feet for department stores and retail apparel stores, but five spaces per 1000 square feet for general retail stores.

He suggested the lower standard could apply to "small box" stores as well.

"I'd agree with that," said board member Greg Sheppard, adding that the study was clearly intended to support the developer's interest. "We as the board have to make the decision ..."

Other LPA members agreed in concept with the change but said the LDRs should also to define what constitutes a "small box" retail store.

"We have not been friendly to businesses of that size. It's been very unfair to them."

—LPA chairwoman Sharon Padgett



"We have not been friendly to businesses of that size," said board chair Sharon Padgett. "It's been very unfair to them. They've been paying higher taxes and things like that, that they shouldn't be."

Commercial facade and sign standards

The board also discussed adding new language to the LDRs regarding standards for commercial building facades and signs.

As Mr. Sheppard pointed out, a building with a glass and metal exterior would be out of character with existing commercial buildings in Sanderson, for example.

The suggested language from Mr. Milton would allow the county to "encourage or require new commercial development to possess compatible architectural designs, facades, scale, proportions, site planning, landscaping, materials and color."

Mr. Milton said most counties require new construction to be compatible with existing buildings rather than just encouraging it.

"We're trying to say give us a little more support, and if we did want to see those standards, having the language in our LDRs would help back us up," he said.

"That's pretty open-ended," said Mr. Sheppard, the former LPA chairman, but no other board members objected to the language and Mr. Milton moved ahead, seeking input on so-called monument signs.

He explained early this week by email that the county doesn't have any rules regarding monument signs, but he sought such a sign for the Cuyler Dollar General store "as I thought it would complement the rural nature of that location."

There was little agreement among LPA members, however, about amending to the LDRs to accommodate monument signs.

"Should we even modify our existing signage language ...? Or should we do it on a case-by-case basis?" Mr. Milton asked the panel.

"I think there needs to be some overall guidance and direction because we want to understand what our community is going to look like, five, 10, 15 years down the road," Mr. Sheppard said, pointing to large ban-

ner sign draped on the roof of a fireworks retailer at the northeast corner of the SR 228 interchange.

"It's kind of an eyesore but nobody can really do anything with it," he said.

Mr. Sheppard suggested making monument signs the standard going forward for aesthetic reasons and allowing developers to petition the county for exceptions to the standard that could be reviewed by the board and county commissioners.

Ms. Padgett, meanwhile, cautioned the board that monument signs in some circumstances could block drivers' lines of sight.

"I'm all about safety," she said. "I'm good for looks, but I'm about safety, so to me, it depends on that."

"Can you put language that [monument signs] are preferred?" asked board member Glen Patten.

"You can, but nobody will follow it," responded county attorney Rich Komando.

LPA member Allen Cross favored evaluating signage for commercial projects on a case-by-case basis rather than creating a standard for monument signs.

He feared the standard could lead to numerous monument signs along a stretch of roadway in close proximity, which would limit the visibility of each individual sign.

"If everybody has monument signs and they're the same height you won't be able to see them until you're right there," said Mr. Cross. "Some places you need signs of varying height and some places it works where they're all the same. It's all going to depend on where they're at and what kind of business it is and what the surrounding vegetation is like ..."

Gabe Powers was the last board member present — Katherine Heinz and George Knabb were absent — to weigh in. He questioned the need for any changes regarding monument signs.

"How many problems have we ran into since you've been here with monument signs?" he asked Mr. Milton rhetorically.

"None yet," said the development director.

Developer aims to avoid paving, utility mandates

In the only other business that evening the board heard

from Jack Baker Jr., who is developing a subdivision on the border of the City of Macclenny and plans to request variances to avoid the expenses associated with required road paving and water and sewer hook-ups.

"I was going to ask that you put that on your plate, but not at the bottom of it," Mr. Baker told the LPA board, on which he formerly served. "I know your plate's full and I admire you for doing it and keep doing it ... This one may be a pretty easy fix ..."

Mr. Milton explained early this week Mr. Baker is proposing a less expensive gravel road rather than traditional asphalt paving and the installation of wells and septic systems for a subdivision with 1.5 acre lots.

Mr. Baker said during the meeting he hopes to develop the property as a gated "estate-type" subdivision with larger lots and homes.

He said connecting to the city's utilities and paving the interior road would mean selling more lots of a smaller size to make the project economically feasible.

"I would rather put seven lots with wells and septic tanks and not 40 small lots for houses, which is what it would take to overcome the cost of that infrastructure," he said.

Macclenny's water and sewer hookup fees vary but the cost is generally about \$1700 per unit when utilities exist on the same side of the road as the parcel to be hooked up and about \$2800 when they exist directly across the street up to 40 feet away.

The Florida Department of Transportation estimates the cost of constructing an undivided two-lane rural road with 5-foot paved shoulders at more than \$2.2 million per mile.

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OPINION

School shooting has everyone second guessing

During the deluge of media coverage after the horrific school shooting in Parkland, I couldn't help

On Point In Print

Joel Addington

but think about the mass shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado in 1999 and how it seemed to be the first of its kind.

I was fresh out of high school in my first year of community college and Colorado seemed so far away. The images of teenagers with bombs and guns mowing down their classmates were shocking for sure but felt very alien.

Now school shootings feel like the new normal, but I'm not sure I dwell on them any more than I did 18 years ago, which wasn't much.

I'm sure some communities, schools and parents still believe deep down it will never happen to them, to their children, in their neighborhoods or schools.

Even with the most recent shooting happening in our state, leading students to descend on the capitol to lobby lawmakers for better gun control, I cringe to think it could happen to me, my friends or my family.

But the truth is, mass shootings can happen anywhere. There are enough civilian firearms in America to arm every man, woman and child and then some.

In the wrong hands, the results are tragic.

Just as disturbing, however, is the case of a mother who reportedly wanted to test the response of schools and law enforcement to un-specific reports of a gun on campus, including if parents would be notified about the vague threat (no student was named.)

But in doing so she lied

to school officials, police and patrons in a tanning salon, ginning up fear about the po-

tential for a school shooting at Macclenny Elementary.

Even after she came clean to school administrators and police about the farce and was trespassed from all county campuses,

she continued to spread hysteria at a local restaurant, resulting in her arrest on a misdemeanor charge of disturbing school functions.

This bizarre case may have stemmed from the

mother's genuine concern for her children should a gun actually be found on campus. Perhaps her intention was to sow panic, distrust and fear, much like the Russians in last year's

election.

We can only speculate. But if a gun was confiscated from a student on campus, should parents be told what happened and that there is no longer a threat? Perhaps, but isn't that information really only handy if you know it ahead of time?

Recent events in the county surely show tensions are running high for parents of school children and likely the youths themselves.

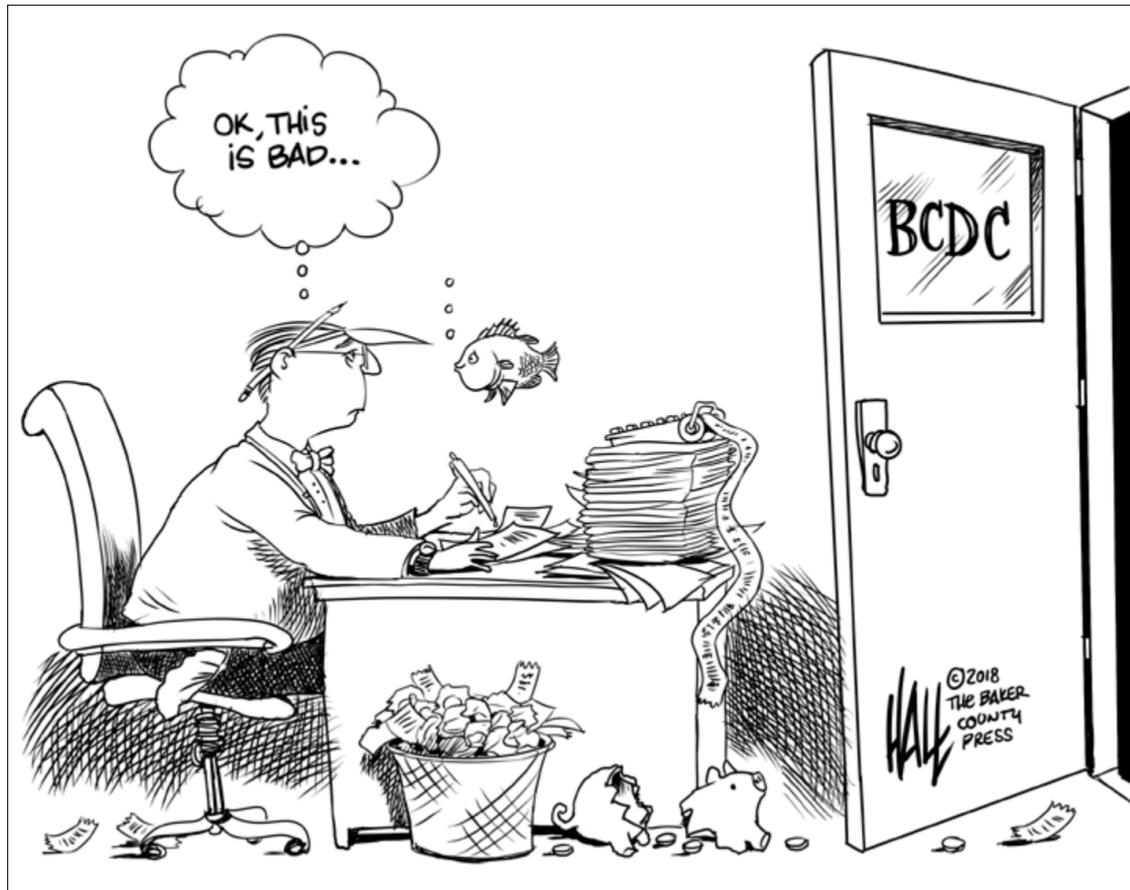
A high school student was arrested last week for bringing knives to school, maybe out of fear since he told police he had no plans to hurt himself or anyone else.

There were also unfounded allegations that a student threatened to shoot other students at Baker County Middle School last week.

As such it's a good time to remind ourselves that during emotional times like these, rumors and hearsay are of little use when coming to grips with this new normal.

It's certainly the very worst time for anyone to be stoking fears about guns on campus, let alone spreading complete fictions about it.

God forbid it does happen and authorities start to second guess someone with credible information.



Incorrect about curlers

My Side of the Matter Robert Gerard

Sometimes, life thumbs its nose at me and gives me a big, "I told you so," and that happened this past week. I wrote a column last week about the Winter Olympics and I spent a lot of time talking about curling.

I discussed how I watch the odd sport that takes on a cult following of people who barely understand what's going on and kind of enjoy it. I mentioned that it is a sport that the U.S. is not very good at it, but takes part in nonetheless. When I wrote the column the U.S. team that finished last and next to last in the previous two Olympics was on the verge of being bounced out of the competition yet again.

It was at that point that Fate shook its head and said, "Oh, ye of little faith." The U.S. team woke up and started winning. They beat world power Canada twice and split with World Champion Sweden to win the Gold Medal.

I watched the match, and throughout, the commentators were talking about the dominance of the Swedish "skip," Niklas Edin, a red-bearded 30-year-old who looked like a Viking, and how U.S. skip John Shuster, a middle-aged guy you'd see in the Walmart, was struggling.

He then came back and threw a brilliant shot that scored five points in the eighth "end" assuring the win. The U.S. looked as shocked as Sweden by the result.

That's one of the reasons I like the Olympics — you just never know what is going to happen. Sometimes the most unlikely of heroes step up to win a medal.

So, though I was thrilled and though skip John Shuster didn't know it, his win was a chance to stick out his tongue at all of us un-

informed, fly-by-night curling fans who doubted him.

I stand corrected, USA Curling, "Rock" on.

Another major sports story creeps into my column this week, that should have an impact on all of us Jaguar fans.

A day after ESPN reported that the Jaguars were trying to move around a ton of money to pick up Washington Redskins quarterback Kurt Cousins, the Jaguars, like USA Curling, got to thumb its nose at the sports pundits.

They re-signed Blake Bortles to a multi-year, \$54-million deal. Through all sorts of complicated financial legerdemain, the finance office turned this into a win-win situation for Bortles and the Jaguars.

They paid the quarterback a lot of money, and at the same time, they did it in such a way that it helped their NFL cap space. The cap is the amount that the NFL allows teams to spend on players.

The good thing about cap space is that it allows the team to sign other players who could become free agents, such as No.1 wide receiver Alan Robinson and defensive player Aaron Colvin. I don't know if they will sign them, but they have the opportunity to do it, which they wouldn't have if they picked up Cousins.

There were probably a lot of Jaguars fans — like my wife — who were left scratching their heads and wondering why the team didn't dump Bortles for a more accomplished signal caller.

The Jaguars front office

has a lot of faith in Bortles. I guess they figure that with the success of the team making it to the AFC championship game, it demonstrates that Bortles has enough to keep the Jaguars on the winning track.

Think about other teams that won the Super Bowl with less than elite quarterbacks. Leading the list is the Baltimore Ravens and their Lombardi Trophy with Joe Flacco at quarterback. Flacco is good, but he's not in the same category as Brady or Rodgers or Brees. He's a serviceable quarterback with a great defense to lean on.

The same was true with Jim McMahon, the winning quarterback of the 1985 Bears. The Jaguars were compared to the '85 Bears last season. McMahon was pretty good but it was the Mike Singletary led defense that won the Super Bowl.

With an improved receiving corps featuring Alan Robinson it could be that Bortles can step up and take them the rest of the way to the promised land.

That's what the Jaguars front office is counting on.

Correction

The maiden name of Margaret Kirkland published last week in an article on her 60th wedding anniversary was incorrect. It is Humphreys.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Possible slash in infant death funds

Dear Editor:

Since the creation of Florida's 32 statewide Healthy Start Coalitions in 1991, our state's infant mortality has dropped by 35 percent due in part to the program's comprehensive approach to prenatal and infant care and education.

But now, Healthy Start funding is in jeopardy due to proposed budget cuts. The potential impact on our community would be significant, threatening families' access to Healthy Start services such as education and support for families including infant care and safe sleep, pregnancy care and preparing for baby's arrival, screening and referrals for perinatal depression, substance abuse, child development and much more.

The Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition leads the community effort to reduce infant mortality and is a recognized model and catalyst for community involvement, collaboration and innovative services. In 2016-17, the Coalition leveraged an additional \$4.16 million in federal and private funding for families in Northeast Florida.

With strong partnerships, we have created a continuum of support before, during and after pregnancy that ensures our babies have the best possible start in life and celebrate their first birthday. We work with families to support their health and well-being, and engage partners throughout the region to join in the effort to address the underlying societal and structural root causes of infant mortality and poor

birth outcomes.

In 2016, 47 more babies lived to age one in the region than did in 1991. That's 47 babies whose potential was lost, who would be adults today contributing to the economy and possible raising families of their own.

There have been other successes in Baker County since the start of Healthy Start:

- The infant mortality rate for the county is more than 41 percent lower in the last three years than it was before Healthy Start began.
- The teen birth rate has dropped by 58 percent.
- There has been a 57 percent drop in women who smoke during pregnancy.

- There has been a 42 percent increase in the amount of mothers who initiate breastfeeding.

Our moms, dads and babies are healthier because of Healthy Start — but for so many families it is more than just a source of education, interventions and resources. Our Healthy Start care coordinators become part of the family and life-long friends — they provide invaluable support at a critical point in lives of our participants.

We urge concerned readers to express their support of Healthy Start to their state legislators as final budget decisions unfold in the days ahead.

Kenneth Scarborough &
Guy Benrubi, MD
Board Chair and board member
Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition

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Letters are welcome, but must contain the signature of the writer, a phone number and city of residence. Letters must be concise and reflect opinions and statements on current issues to the general public. The newspaper reserves the right to reject any material which in the newspaper's judgement does not meet standards of publication.

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Teenager slugs dean at BCMS

A 14-year-old female student at Baker County Middle School faces a charge of aggravated battery for punching a school dean in the face while he and two others broke up a fight at the school bus loop at the start of the day on February 21.

Police released the identity of Dam-area Lee, 14, of Sanderson because of the seriousness of the offense, a first-degree felony, and withheld the names of three other girls ages 14 and 13 charged with misdemeanor battery who were also involved.

Campus deputy said teacher Anne Cassidy was also accosted during the fracas and taken by wheelchair with unspecified injuries to the school nurse office. A third adult, Stephen Cannon, whose role at BCMS was not noted, also responded.

The incident was rooted in what was described as an ongoing argument between Ms. Lee and one of the other combatants.

In other recent incidents, police arrested Bobbie Jo Lisenby, 47, at her Plantation Road address south of Glen St. Mary early on February 24 for aggravated domestic battery on her 17-year-

old step-son when she threw a plate at him, lacerating his shoulder.

The youth told Cpl. Marc Heath his step-mother returned from work around midnight and awakened him with loud noises inside the house, then entered his bedroom yelling at him and striking him with the plate while he was still in bed.

Ms. Lisenby is also charged with child abuse and resisting Cpl. Heath and Sgt. Patrick McGauley while being handcuffed.

Detective Jeremiah Combs arrested a 14-year-old boy for cursing and threatening his 60-year-old grandmother at their residence on Bob Burned Road the evening of February 22.

The grandmother said the youth reacted violently when she confronted him because he appeared to be high on drugs, and he ran from the residence. Det. Combs and Deputy Chad Montean found him later walking on SR 125 north of Glen and arrested him for domestic assault.

A charge of felony aggravated battery was filed on February 20 charging a Northeast Florida State Hospital pa-

tient Brian Vogt, 32, with a violent attack on another male patient, 35, on January 25.

The report by Deputy Jeffrey Davis noted the victim had a broken jaw, lacerations and three broken teeth, and was treated in Jacksonville. Mr. Vogt, meanwhile, was transferred earlier in February to face a criminal charge in an unknown jurisdiction.

Dennis Desue Jr., 25, of Macclenny was arrested February 25 for felony child neglect for driving off from an apartment on Big Oak Court that afternoon and leaving his 1-year-old son unsupervised in the front yard.

The toddler's grandfather Robert Starrett, who lives at the address, told Deputy Jeffrey Higginbotham he earlier argued with the accused over who would keep the child overnight in the absence of his mother.

Mr. Starrett said he had just returned from work and was unable to do so, and assumed Mr. Desue would take responsibility. He checked outside after several minutes and found the baby sitting alone on the lawn and his father driving away with another person.



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Trio of quick arrests for license violators

JON SHUMAKE

Three arrests were made in less than three hours on February 23 of suspects who were driving without valid licenses.

In the lone felony incident, a habitual traffic offender from Jacksonville, was arrested about 9:30 p.m. after police received multiple reports of him driving recklessly on I-10 west and in the Walmart parking lot.

Sgt. Patrick McGauley responded to the store after learning of a Dodge truck that nearly struck other vehicles in the parking lot. He saw Darryl Edenfield, 28, exiting the truck's driver's

seat and the suspect said he knew he should not be driving because his license was not valid.

The sergeant also assisted Cpl. Marc Heath with apprehending a Macclenny man who ran from police shortly after 11:30 p.m.

Cpl. Heath followed Sylvester Jackson, 28, after witnessing him turn from Minnesota Avenue onto Ninth Street without stopping at the stop sign. The officer also visually estimated Mr. Jackson traveling about twice the 25 mph speed limit on Lewis Street.

The corporal caught up to the suspect when Mr. Jackson pulled into a Lewis

Street residence. Mr. Jackson looked at the officer and immediately ran into the residence after Cpl. Heath asked the suspect to come to him, according to the officer's report.

Cpl. Heath relocated to the east side of the residence, and Sgt. McGauley made contact saying he found someone matching the description on the west side of the residence.

The corporal positively identified Mr. Jackson, who also had a local warrant for failure to appear for no valid driver's license. He was also jailed for obstructing without violence and driving without a license.

In the first incident that night, which occurred just after 9 p.m., a Glen St. Mary man with two warrants was taken into custody for driving on a license with two suspensions and a revocation.

Deputy John Murphy pulled over Matthew Johns, 25, on Woodlawn Road after catching him driving at a high rate of speed down South Sixth Street. Mr. Johns admitted his license was not valid, and a check revealed it was suspended for financial responsibilities, suspended indefinitely for failure to pay traffic fines and revoked for 180 days in 2015 for DUI.

Domestic spat leads to arrest for drugs

JON SHUMAKE

Police arrested a Macclenny man the night of February 20 on two felony counts of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and other misdemeanor drug counts after deputies responded to a 911 hang-up.

Cpl. Marc Heath initially responded to a Ruben Crawford Road residence but went to a nearby Bluewater Court residence and heard two people, later identified as husband and wife Michael and Amy Johnson, arguing inside. Mr. Johnson, 41, exited the bedroom with a knife, but complied with the corporal's command to drop it at gunpoint.

A pat down of Mr. Johnson's person revealed a

prescription bottle with his wife's name on it and a metal cylinder. The container had a plastic bag with a crystal-like substance inside, which tested positive for meth, according to the officer.

A further search uncovered two pills - Acetaminophen and Oxycodone Hydrochloride - and 2.5 grams of marijuana in his front pants pocket.

In addition to the felony counts, Mr. Johnson was also jailed for misdemeanor possession of pot and drug paraphernalia.

In another felony drug arrest, a 17-year-old was taken into custody the evening of February 25 for possession of marijuana with intent to sell after police found 13.4 grams of the drug, a digital

scale and baggies in the vehicle he was driving.

Deputy Jeffrey Davis stopped Myles Allen of Wellborn, FL after witnessing him fail to stop at a stop sign in Sanderson, which caused another vehicle to take an evasive action to avoid a collision. The officer reported he saw four occupants in the 2013 Volkswagen moving frantically and could smell raw marijuana coming from the vehicle.

The deputy found two plastic bags containing marijuana, several smaller baggies, a digital scale with pot inside and a container with the drug in the driver area. Mr. Myles admitted it was all his when Deputy Davis questioned him and three other occupants.

The marijuana appeared

to be packaged for sale due to the scales, different amounts of pot in each bag and the smaller baggies all being located in the same area, Deputy Davis noted.

Mr. Allen was also arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia.

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OBITUARIES

Service Thursday for Miss Byrd

Miss Bettye Burlea Byrd, 45, of Macclenny, died Saturday, February 24, 2018 at Macclenny Nursing and Rehab Center. Miss Byrd was born in Florence, South Carolina and resided in Macclenny since 1974. She attended Baker County schools and graduated from Baker County High School in 1991. She was a member of the ARC of North Florida in Macclenny and enjoyed classes in music, coloring and crafts. She also enjoyed hunting with her father before his death. She was preceded in death by her parents Burley Harold and Ellen Loree Rose Byrd.



Bettye Byrd

Miss Byrd is survived by her sister Deborah Peters of Taylor; brothers Thomas A. Byrd and Burley H. Peters, both of Taylor; loyal cousin Aunt Marty Rain of Sanderson.

A funeral service to honor the life of Miss Byrd will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 1 in the chapel of Guerry Funeral Home in Macclenny with Rev. Tommy Anderson, pastor of the Road to Calvary Church, officiating. Interment will be at Mantown Cemetery in Glen St. Mary.

Herb Caudel, 30-year Army veteran

Herbert "Herb" Vernon Caudel Jr., 78, of Glen St. Mary died on February 20, 2018 at Orange Park Medical Center. He was born December 1, 1939 in Evansville, Indiana to the late Herbert Caudel Sr. and Evelyn Heron Caudel. Herb honorably served his country more the 30 years in the United States Army, including two tours in Vietnam. After retirement Herb moved to Glen St. Mary. He enjoyed dancing, traveling and going out to eat. He was also an avid FSU fan. Mostly Herb loved spending time with his family. He was predeceased by his parents.



Herbert Caudel Jr.

Mr. Caudel is survived by his loving wife of 21 years, Helen Caudel; children Richard Caudel of Rockford, IL, Wayne (Kristin) Caudel of Cotati, CA, Michael (Susan) Caudel of Fleming Island, FL, Michael Harry (Linda) Richardson of Glen St. Mary, Melinda (Ron) Ratcliff of Largo, FL and David (Marcelle) Richardson of Glen St. Mary; daughter-in-law Lindy Richardson of Glen St. Mary; 20 grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Herb's life was held on Monday, February 26 at 11:30 a.m. at Ferreira Funeral Services chapel with Pastor Eddie Griffis officiating. Interment will follow at Jacksonville National Cemetery at 2 p.m. with military honors.

Malinda Santell dies February 25

Malinda Lee Santell, 55, of Glen St. Mary died at her home on February 25, 2018. She was born June 17, 1962 in Jacksonville to Marvin Neeley and Georgia Crabb Neeley, and moved to Baker County from Tennessee in 1995. She was fond of reading and doing crossword puzzles, and was also a great baker who enjoyed cooking. Most of all, Malinda enjoyed spending time with her grandbabies.



Malinda Santell

Ms. Santell is survived by her loving husband Agipato "Tito" Santell of Glen St. Mary; children James O. Williams Jr. and Georgina L. Williams of Glen St. Mary, Henry A. Williams (Pam Griffis) of Macclenny; brother Clayton Neeley of Glen St. Mary; nine grandchildren.

A celebration of Malinda's life will be held at noon on Thursday, March 1 at Ferreira Funeral Services Chapel in Macclenny. Interment will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the funeral home one hour prior to service.

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Funeral for Mr. Scott held Friday

Larry Eugene Scott, 75, of Macclenny died on Tuesday, February 20, 2018. He was born in Moorehead, North Carolina to the late Romain and Lola Scott. Mr. Scott was a resident of Macclenny since 2002, coming here from Baldwin, where he lived since the early 1970s. Larry enjoyed a career spanning many years as a truck driver, where he was known by his CB handle as "Singin' Poor Boy."



Larry Scott

He was a proud member of the Loyal Order of the Moose, Lodge 2412 in Macclenny, VFW Post 7909 of Jacksonville and also American Legion Post 83 of Macclenny. In his free time, Larry enjoyed fishing and the outdoors, as well as singing at the Moose Lodge in Macclenny. He was a very family-oriented man and will be remembered for being a friend to many. Mr. Scott loved being around people and making them laugh. Mr. Scott was also an avid fan of the Gators, Jaguars and Atlanta Braves. He will be missed by many for his sentimental spirit and quick sense of humor.

Mr. Scott is survived by daughters Tammy (Mike) Harris and Corrina Howle of Bryceville, Julie Rousseau of Macclenny; brother William (Lu) Scott of Jacksonville; sisters Deana (Bill) Hadden of Callahan, Brenda (Buddy) Wright of Keystone Heights and Debbie (David) Luttrell of Jacksonville; grandchildren Michael Harris, Shane (Aleena) Howle, Amy Howle, Jessica (Jarrod) Mize, Cody Hodges, Andrea (John) Marecki, Kayce (Earrike) Dobson, and Colt Rousseau; nine great-grandchildren; numerous other family members. He was preceded in death by his parents, the mother of his children Phyllis Scott and wife Dorothy "Joyce" Scott; sister Sunny Nelson.

The funeral service was held 11 a.m. on Friday, February 23 at Forbes Funeral Home in Macclenny with Rev. Bill Hadden officiating.

Family grateful

We wish to thank our Baker County friends for all the love and kindness we received following the recent death of our loved one, George Haskell Stewart. Thanks to our sheriff and all the emergency personnel who went way beyond the ordinary; to our neighbors who organized and prepared food, feeding us for many days; to our pastor, Don Thompson Jr., who was with us at the Trauma Center and prayed with us as George passed. Thanks for all the visits, calls, cards, flowers, food and donations to our family's foundation "Amputee Fitness Council." Last but not least, thanks for all the prayers that sustain us, and a very special thanks to our large and loving church family at the First United Methodist Church, especially those who worked so hard to prepare, serve and clean up after the bereavement meal for our very large family.

With love and appreciation.
Betty Stewart and Family

In loving memory of Mr. Lovelace Chandler February 16, 1939 March 1, 2004

God saw you were getting tired, and a cure was not to be. So He put His arms around you and whispered "Come to me." With tearful eyes we watched you and saw you pass away. Although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hard-working hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us, that He only takes the best.

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS, THERESA CHANDLER AND THE CHANDLER FAMILY

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Homecoming

Members in the Baker County area are invited to the Johnstown Baptist Church for a homecoming service on March 11 starting at 10:30 a.m. with dinner following morning service.

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For additional information call (904) 259-3191 or visit www.bakerpa.com
Timothy P. Sweat, CFA - Baker County Property Appraiser

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Temple INDEPENDENT PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
We would love to connect with you!
For more information on what we do, how to contact us, or how to find our church, visit our website at:
www.christianfellowshiptemple.com
Service Times...
Sunday: 10:00 Sunday School/Bible Study, 11:00 Morning Worship, 6:00 Evening Worship
Wednesday: 6:00 Family Meal, 7:00 Adult Service, 7:00 Youth Services

Calvary Baptist Church

Pastor Donnie E. Williams, Sr.
Sunday School 10:00 am
Preaching Service 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 pm
Wednesday Service 7:00 pm
523 North Boulevard W. | a few blocks north of Hwy. 90 in Macclenny
www.calvarybaptistmacclenny.com • 259-4529

CHURCH AND OBITUARY NOTICE INFORMATION

Obituaries must be submitted in a timely fashion and have a local connection. Pictures are printed with obituaries free of charge. The newspaper reserves the right to publish photos based on quality. It is requested that all news items be typed or emailed to insure accuracy in print.

CONTACT US

By phone at 904.259.2400 or by fax at 904.259.6502. You can stop by our office located at 104 S. Fifth Street, Macclenny, FL or mail your submission to PO Box 598, Macclenny, FL 32063 Online at www.bakercountypress.com or email editor@bakercountypress.com

Stay informed. Subscribe.

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS • 259-2400



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or get \$2 Off + 6 months FREE access to the online edition for in-county subscribers

LEGAL NOTICES



NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED 2018-TD-01

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that DAVID WALLS the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERTIFICATE NO: 89
 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2015

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
 PARCEL 135: A PARCEL OF LAND, LYING AND SITUATE IN SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 4; AND RUN N 89 DEGREES 47'55" E, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 4, A DISTANCE OF 240.61 FEET; THENCE RUN S 18 DEGREES 13'30" E, A DISTANCE OF 382.77 FEET; THENCE CONTINUE RUNNING S 18 DEGREES 13'30" E, A DISTANCE OF 416.08 FEET; THENCE CONTINUE S 18 DEGREES 13'30" E, A DISTANCE OF 401.72 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND; THENCE RUN N 89 DEGREES 47' 55" E, A DISTANCE OF 677.39 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF COUNTY ROAD NUMBER 139; THENCE RUN S 00 DEGREES 34'51" E, ALONG SAID WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 399.60 FEET; THENCE CONTINUE RUNNING S 00 DEGREES 34'51" E, A DISTANCE OF 389.53 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF UNITED STATE HIGHWAY NUMBER 90; THENCE RUN S 77 DEGREES 45'04" W, ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 613.95 FEET; THENCE RUN S 00 DEGREES 47'56" E, CONTINUING ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 47.95 FEET; THENCE RUN S 77 DEGREES 45'04" W, CONTINUING ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 234.53 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF A 60 FOOT PRIVATE ROAD (KNOWN AS BRAXTON ROAD); THENCE RUN N 12 DEGREES 14'56" W ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 151.65 FEET TO THE POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT; THENCE RUN NORTHWESTERLY CONTINUING ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 131.80 FEET AS MEASURED ALONG THE ARC OF A CURVE CONCAVE SOUTHWESTERLY AND HAVING A RADIUS OF 530.00 FEET, SAID ARC BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD HAVING A BEARING OF N 19 DEGREES 22'24" W AND A DISTANCE OF 131.46 FEET; THENCE N 55 DEGREES 24'47" E A DISTANCE OF 605.70 FEET; THENCE RUN N 36 DEGREES 58' 50" W, A DISTANCE OF 438.71 FEET; THENCE RUN N 18 DEGREES 13'30" W, A DISTANCE OF 50.69 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SUBJECT TO A 15 FOOT UTILITY EASEMENT OVER, ACROSS AND ALONG THE EAST BOUNDARY THEREOF. SUBJECT TO A 15 FOOT UTILITY EASEMENT OVER ACROSS AND ALONG THE SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF.

ALL OF SAID PROPERTY BEING LOCATED IN BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA.

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: BOREE INVESTMENTS, LLC

Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law, the property described herein will be sold to the highest bidder at the front door of the Baker County Courthouse, Macclenny, Florida on THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018 at 11:00 A.M.

Dated this 2nd day of February, 2018

Stacie D. Harvey
 Clerk Of Court
 Baker County, Florida
 By: Julie B. Combs
 Deputy Clerk

2/8-3/1c

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Baker County School District School Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 5, 2018, at Taylor Church located at, 26398 County Road 250, Sanderson, Florida, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The following items will be considered at the public hearing: Public comment on the NEWLY recommended instructional materials. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Student editions of NEWLY recommended instructional materials will be available for preview on the district website at www.bakerk12.org, on February 13, 2018.

2/1-3/1c

ALL SAFE MINI STORAGE

190 SOUTH LOWDER STREET
 MACCLENNY, FLORIDA 32063

DIXIE MINI STORAGE
 110 N 8th ST
 MACCLENNY, FLORIDA 32063

904-259-3565

The following units containing household items such as furniture, appliances, etc., will be sold by public auction Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 9:00 am to satisfy back rent. The following tenants can claim their property back if rent is paid before this date:

DIXIE MINI STORAGE

Name	Unit #
Pamela Jefferson	110
Pamela Jefferson	166

ALL SAFE MINI STORAGE

Michelle Souza	301
Stephanie Davis	51
Ashley Dixon	38
Shaneka Williams	14
Tammy Hines	225
Leslie Woods	284
Gerald Howard	133
Shirley Churchville	217
Richard Satterfield	236
Joseph Hatfield	65
Joann Burnham	184
Michael Smith	162
Charles Brown Sr.	28
Melburn Booher, Jr.	31
Erika Capra	216

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3/1-3/8c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 02-2017-CA-000035

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
 Plaintiff,

v.

STEVEN E. COBB; DIANNA L. COBB; UNKNOWN TENANT 1; UNKNOWN TENANT 2; CYPRESS POINTE OF MACCLENNY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO WACHOVIA BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
 Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on February 7, 2018, in this cause, in the Circuit Court of Baker County, Florida, the clerk shall sell the property situated in Baker County, Florida, described as:

LOT 5, CYPRESS POINTE, UNIT 1, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGES 90 THROUGH 92, INCLUSIVE OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A/K/A 500 ISLAMORADA DR S, MACCLENNY, FL 32063-4254

at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, at the front door of the Baker County Courthouse, 339 E. Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, FL 32063, on May 10, 2018, beginning at 11:00 AM.

If you are a person claiming a right to funds remaining after the sale, you must file a claim with the clerk no later than 60 days after the sale. If you fail to file a claim you will not be entitled to any remaining funds.

Dated this 20th day of February, 2018.

Stacie D. Harvey
 Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: Tina Carrington
 Deputy Clerk

eXL Legal, PLLC
 12425 28TH STREET NORTH, SUITE 200
 ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716
 EFLING@EXLLEGAL.COM
 Fax No. (727) 539-1094

2/22-3/1c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA FILE NO. 02-2018-CP-05

In Re: The Estate of BART HOWARD SWEARINGEN, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Bart Howard Swearingen, deceased, whose date of death was October 29, 2017, is pending in the Circuit Court for Baker County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 339 E Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida 32063. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is February 22, 2018.

Personal Representative:
 Diane Perry Sigers
 15063 River Hills Road
 Glen St. Mary, Florida 32040

Attorney for Personal Representative:
 Jaime Council, Attorney
 Florida Bar Number: 0015951
 Law Offices of Curtis & Associates, P.A.
 701 Market Street, Unit 109
 St. Augustine, Florida 32095
 Telephone: (904) 819-6959
 Fax: (904) 819-6936
 E-Mail: JaimeCouncil@CurtisFirm.com
 Secondary E-Mail: Fatiahlvory@CurtisFirm.com

2/22-3/1c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 02-2018-DR-0076

In Re: The Marriage of WILLIE KIRK JACKSON, Husband,

and

CAROLYN WHEATON JACKSON, Wife.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: CAROLYN WHEATON JACKSON

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to FRANK E. MALONEY, JR., P.A., Attorney, whose address is 445 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida 32063; (904) 259-3155, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of the notice and on or before the 26th day of March, 2018, and to file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on FRANK E. MALONEY, JR., P.A., attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court on this 23rd day of February, 2018.

Stacie D. Harvey
 Clerk Of Court

By: Melissa Haines
 Deputy Clerk

Frank E. Maloney, Jr., P.A.
 445 East Macclenny Avenue
 Macclenny, Florida 32063
 legalmail@frankmaloney.us

3/1-3/22c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 02-2018-CP-0004

In Re: The Estate of SARAH JAN GODWIN, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of SARAH JAN GODWIN, deceased, File Number 02-2018-CP-0004, is pending in the Circuit Court for Baker County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 339 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida 32063. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is February 22, 2018.

Personal Representative:
 Jeremy C. Brown

Attorney for Personal Representative:
 Frank E. Maloney, Jr., Esquire
 445 East Macclenny Avenue
 Macclenny, FL 32063
 (904) 259-3155/Fax (904) 259-9729
 Florida Bar No.: 142990
 legalmail@frankmaloney.us

2/22-3/1c

Higginbotham's Towing & Recovery Inc. 7611 West Mt. Vernon St. Glen St. Mary, FL 32040

The following vehicle will be sold at public auction on March 16, 2018 at 10:00 am at Higginbotham's Towing & Recovery 7611 West Mt. Vernon St., Glen St. Mary, FL 32040:

1984 Coleman Sun Valley Camper
 VIN# 1CLFE11C7E5802569
 2001 Honda Odyssey
 VIN# 2HKRL18601H559386

3/1c

US STORAGE DEPOT SELF-STORAGE FACILITY 1171 S 6TH ST MACCLENNY, FL 32063

904-451-5907

A public auction will be held Saturday, March 17th, 2018 at 12:00 pm to satisfy back rent. The following items will be sold at absolute bid.

Units belonging to:
 •Tricia Bennett containing various household furniture and various odd items.
 •Lauren Gainey containing various household furniture, various odd items, and pictures.

US STORAGE DEPOT SELF-STORAGE FACILITY 781 MACCLENNY AVE MACCLENNY, FL 32063

Units belonging to:
 •Saige Sanders containing various household items, various children's toys and play set, mattress set.
 •John Stone containing various household furniture, children's toys, clothes, box of DVDs, and various odd items.
 •Sharia James containing various tools and a Red Ford Explorer XLE automobile.

3/1-3/8c

INVITATION TO BID # 2018-03 Sony FWD85X0500 Display TVs & Installation

The Baker County Board of County Commissioners, Florida (County) will receive sealed bids until 3:00 p.m. local time, on March 15, 2018 at the County Administration Office located at 55 N. Third Street, Macclenny, Florida 32063. Bids delivered to any other location will not be considered received by the Administration Office. Any bids received after the above time will not be accepted under any circumstances. Any uncertainty regarding the time will be resolved against the Bidder. Bids will not be accepted via fax. Shortly after the bid due time has expired, the bids will be publicly opened and announced.

A clearly marked original and five (5) copies must be sealed in an envelope and clearly marked "BID 2018-03" on the exterior of the package submitted.

Request for additional information or clarifications must be made in writing to the Administration Office. Facsimile or e-mail questions are acceptable. The Administration Office will issue replies to inquiries and additional information or amendments deemed necessary in written addenda, which will be issued prior to the deadline for responding to this Invitation To Bid. Questions must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. on March 8, 2018.

Baker County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office 55 N. Third Street Macclenny, Florida 32063 kennie.dowling@bakercountyfl.org 904-259-3613

It will be the sole responsibility of the Bidder to check the County's website prior to submitting a response to determine if any addenda have been issued, to obtain such addenda, and to acknowledge addenda with their bid.

Respondents to this solicitation or persons acting on their behalf may not contact, between the release of the solicitation and the end of the 72-hour period following the agency posting the notice of intended award, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and County holidays, any employee or officer of the executive or legislative branch concerning any aspect of this solicitation, except in writing to the Administration Office or as provided in the solicitation documents. Violation of this provision may be grounds for rejecting a response.

The Baker County Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities or irregularities in any bids received, to re-advertise for bids, or take any similar actions that may be deemed to be in the best interest of the County.

3/1-3/8c

ADVERTISEMENT FOR MOWING BIDS

The City of Macclenny is soliciting bids for roadside and sidewalk mowing, weed eating, edging and debris removal. Areas to be maintained are:

US 90 between Wildcat Drive and East Blvd.

SR 121 between George Hodge Road and Linda Street

SR 228 between William Barber Road and North Blvd.

Anticipated Contract term will begin April 2, 2018 and end September 28, 2018 with services provided on a bi-weekly schedule.

A mandatory preconference bid meeting will be held at City Hall on March 14, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

All bids must be received by March 21, 2018 before 2:00 p.m. and bids will be opened at City Hall 118 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida.

Sealed Bid packages may be submitted in person or via mail to: Melissa Thompson's Attention at 118 East Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida 32063, with "Mowing Bid" clearing marked on the outside of the package. All bid packages must include proof of Liability Insurance and Worker's Compensation Insurance.

3/1-3/8c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE No.: 022015CA000024CAAXMX

CITIFINANCIAL SERVICING LLC, A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, PLAINTIFF,

VS.

ANGELINA TOLLIVER, ET AL. DEFENDANT(S).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated August 11, 2017, in the above action, I will sell to the highest bidder for cash at Baker County, Florida, on May 10, 2018, at 11:00 AM, at 339 E. Macclenny Ave., Room 113, Macclenny, FL 32063 for the following described property:

PARCEL A: PART OF THE NE ¼ OF THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 20 EAST, BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NE ¼ OF THE SE ¼ WITH THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF COUNTY ROAD NO. 229 (A 100 FOOT RIGHT OF WAY AS NOW ESTABLISHED); THENCE N 12 DEGREES 54' 05" W, ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, 147.26 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF TONY GIVENS ROAD (A COUNTY MAINTAINED GRADED ROAD); THENCE N 78 DEGREES 16' 10" E, ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY, 317.95 FEET; N 82 DEGREE 00' 25" E, CONTINUING ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY, LINE 105.13 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORD VOLUME 15, PAGE 28 AND ALSO BEING THE WEST LINE OF LANDS NOW OR FORMERLY OF TON GIVENS; THENCE N 02 DEGREE 31' 31" E, ALONG SAID LINE, 316.79 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SAID POINT BEING THE SOUTHEAST COR

Nancy, Tattoo bonded as 'support couple'

Fireside chat at Keller on March 1

Keller Intermediate School will host the Baker County Historical Society's next Fireside Chat with George Peterson, an original faculty member of the school when it opened as an all-black high school in 1956.

The chat will take place on March 1 at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria. The Fireside Chats are "a journey into the past where a offer an unscripted and intimate view of their life through the oral tradition of storytelling," according to the historical society in a recent email.

The aim is to enlist prominent figures to share their memories and experiences of a by-gone era of Baker County.

"These Fireside Chats offer us the unique opportunity to come together as a community, young and old alike, to take in these 'oral heirlooms,'" the email said.

For more information you can find the event on the Baker County Historical Society's Facebook page or by calling (904) 738-6622. Seating is limited.

Union to host yard sale Sat.

The Baker County Educational Support Professional Union (non-instructional) will hold its second annual yard sale this Saturday, March 3 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. The location is 544 Baker Bus Dr. in Macclenny.

Proceeds go toward student scholarships; last year, the union awarded two of them. Come buy and support our great students.

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE!!!

Get it delivered to your mailbox or subscribe online—
Call today for info

259-2400

THE
BAKER COUNTY
PRESS

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Nancy Mayo has been through some tough times in recent years.

Her husband fell victim to cancer in 2009 at age 59. The Glen St. Mary resident had a stroke the following year.

A few years later Ms. Mayo was the victim of violent domestic abuse at the hands of an ex-fiancée, which left her with a brain hemorrhage, neck and spinal damage and a pinched nerve.

She still wears a back brace to get around the house.

There has been one constant, beyond her children, through it all — a small black, brown and now graying dog named Tattoo. The 15-year-old Chihuahua has been by her side since she began caring for him off-and-on for neighbors as a puppy.

"I was like a godmother," recalled Ms. Mayo last week from her back deck as Tattoo and her younger Chihuahua-mix Honey sat nearby.

When the military family next door moved out two or three years ago, Ms. Mayo is fuzzing on dates, she became Tattoo's official owner through a Facebook message.

During her husband's cancer treatment, Tattoo was very important to the couple, bringing comfort turning a painful time.

"God he loved Tattoo and Tattoo loved him. That was such a comfort to him," said Ms. Mayo, adding that she would often cook for her late husband, whatever he wanted, so she was reluctant to leave him alone.

"But he'd say, 'It's OK to leave me alone. I'm not alone. I've got Tattoo,'" she said.

Tattoo has been facing his own health problems in recent months.

Following Hurricane Irma he first developed bronchitis, which made breathing difficult, said Ms. Mayo, a native of Baxter who retired from a Jacksonville denture company. She has three dogs in all, one cat, chickens and geese.

Then had a bout with heart worms, and due to his advanced age and a heart murmur, a specialized treatment was required.

"After Irma, all my pets got sick. Me and my son, too," Ms. Mayo said. "A lot of people were sick. I don't know but I think Irma brought up a bunch of asbestos and dust and mold ..."

But thanks to medication and regular check-ups by Macclenny veterinarian Joe Harrison in recent months, Tattoo recovered in January, which makes Ms. Mayo very happy.

"I was elated, I was elated. I'm on Facebook telling April, the lady who gave him to me, all about it," she remembered.

She's proud Tattoo can still maneuver down the deck stairs to the ground below to relieve himself.



Nancy Mayo holds Tattoo.

PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON

FORMER CATS UPDATE

Central State continues to roll with Ruise Jr.

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR
sports@bakercountypress.com

The presence of a former BCHS Wildcat basketball star helped his collegiate team turn around its season in the final weeks of the schedule. On the baseball and softball fields, several ex Cats are making an impact for their collegiate teams.

• Junior guard Charles Ruise Jr.'s Central State Marauders ended their regular season on a seven-game winning streak, and won eight out of nine games since Ruise joined the roster in late January. He scored a team-high 26 points on February 21, leading the Marauders (14-14, 11-8) to a 101-99 win at Salem International in their final regular season game. He also had seven rebounds and a steal in the program's fourth single-score win in five games.

Ruise averaged 14.4 points and 3.6 rebounds per game in the regular season.

• Sophomore guard Delicia Washington's Lady Gators ended the season with another loss to a ranked opponent, falling 63-43 to 19th-ranked Georgia on February 25. Washington had eight points and eight rebounds with an assist and a steal in Florida's eighth loss in its previous nine games, and all the defeats have come

against ranked teams.

The Florida Lady Gators were without Washington on February 22 in their 70-42 home loss to No. 15 Tennessee.

She ended the regular season averaging 10.5 points and 8.7 rebounds and a team-high 3.6 assists per game.

Baseball/softball

• NALIA's No. 15 Middle Georgia State Knights have won six straight games to improve to 14-4 overall, including a three-game home sweep against Milligan over the weekend.

Senior pitcher Jared Crews threw four perfect innings with six strikeouts and senior first baseman Mikal Flores batted 3 for 6 with a double and three runs, helping the Knights roll 14-8 over Milligan on February 24 in the first game of a doubleheader. The program also won 6-2 in the second game.

Flores had a hit and two RBIs on February 23, and Middle Georgia State won the opening game of the series 15-3.

• Junior pitcher Zach Rafe's South Carolina Aiken Pacers swept Francis Marion in their opening Peach Belt Conference series, improving to 9-4 overall and 3-0 in the conference. He pitched five solid innings of two-run

ball on February 23, and a walk-off home run lifted the Pacers to the 7-5 victory. He threw seven strikeouts and allowed four hits and two walks.

The Pacers won the final two games of the series 4-1 on February 24 and 8-6 the following day.

• The Tallahassee Community College Lady Eagles, featuring sophomores Callie Paine and Brandie Callaway, were swept by the College of Central Florida during a doubleheader on February 24. The ladies were on the wrong side of a 13-0 no-hitter in the first game. Callaway batted 2 for 3 and scored a run in the second game, but the Lady Eagles (7-10) fell 10-3.

The program also split a pair of doubleheaders during the week against South Georgia State and at St. Johns River State College. Paine hit a two-run home run, her first of the season, on February 22 as TCC topped St. Johns River State College 6-5 in eight innings in the second game. Callaway went 1 for 3 in the team's 8-0 loss earlier in the day.

Paine improved her pitching record to 3-1 on the season on February 20 as she helped the Lady Eagles outlast South Georgia State 9-8. She threw two strikeouts with one hit and one walk in 1.2 innings. Callaway com-

bined to bat 1 for 6 in the doubleheader, and TCC lost the opener 2-1.

• Junior Landon Boyette's Thomas NightHawks were swept in a three-game series against Southeastern Fire, the NALIA's fourth-ranked team. He combined to bat 3 for 9 and was hit by three pitches during the series held on February 23 and 24. Thomas dropped 8-11 overall and 2-7 in the Sun Conference with its 9-2, 18-1 and 8-5 losses.

The team split a doubleheader on February 20 against visiting Brewton-Parker. He went a combined 1 for 8 with a run scored between the two games as Thomas (8-8) lost the first game 7-4 and rebounded for a 5-4 walk-off win in the ninth inning.

• Senior catcher Kylie Holton's Morehead State Lady Eagles split their four games in the Bobby Bailey Memorial Tournament, held February 23 and 24 in Kennesaw, Ga. Holton received plate appearances in Morehead State's two losses, combining to bat 1 for 6 with a run scored as her team fell 6-5 to Florida A&M on the opening day and 4-0 to Kennesaw State on the second day. Morehead State (8-4) also beat FAMU 4-2 to open the tournament and Rutgers 6-0 in its third game.

• Freshman pitcher



Photo courtesy of Ashton Norman

FFA teams 5th, 3rd at landscaping contest

The middle school FFA team and the high school's team placed fifth and third, respectively, at the State Nursery and Landscaping Contest was held at UF Mid-Florida Research Center in Apopka on February 23. The contest consists of identifying plants, pest and tools related to the nursery and landscaping industry, a customer assistance practicum, landscape estimating, plant/soil water relationships and equipment safety/maintenance. "They did a great job at the contest and I am proud of their hard work and dedication," said Ashton Norman, who leads the middle school FFA. The middle school team competed against a dozen other Florida FFA teams while the high school group faced off against 26 teams. The BCHS team's Jackie Donker placed fourth out of 97 students for high individual honors. Her teammates were Samantha Ortiz, Kirsten Starling and Abby Harvey. The middle school team consisted of Chase Smith, Barbaralyn Laumore, Chloe Baldwin and Chase Tyson.



Photo: Grant Dehn

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Photo courtesy of Traci Wheeler

R.O.A.R. middle schoolers for February

Congratulations to the following Baker County Middle School students who were selected by their teachers as the R.O.A.R. students for the month for February. These students consistently model the expectations of Respect, Organization, Attitude and Responsibility (ROAR). They were treated to a pizza lunch last week. The group consisted of eighth graders Brooklyn Canaday, Cameron Johnson, Jamil Jones, Savannah Larson, Hayden Stearns, Doc Theophile and Shawnaisha Thomas; seventh graders Kayla Allen, Eli Bowen, Gracie Brown, Sam Fitzgerald, Joseph Walker, Ty Walker and Ryan Webb; and sixth graders Kassidee Boyette, Molly Lamb, Erin Lawson, Malayna Loadholtz, Gabe McDonald, Laci Nipper, Miles Romines and Javen Thomas. Not all students were present for the photo above.

Weightlifters top invitational

Team wins four classes in the meet

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

The BCHS Wildcat weightlifters have their eyes set on capturing the program's seventh state championship since 2008.

Those visions were validated February 21 in the Fleming Island Invitational against some of the state's top programs.

Baker County won the 11-team invitational for the first time in program history in dominant fashion with 52 points. The Cats won four weight classes to out-power Bartram Trail (31 points) and Fleming Island (26 points), both of which finished in the top 10 in Class 2A last year.

The invitational gave the team a gauge of how it matched up against other top programs, including 2017 Class 2A runner-up Columbia and Keystone Heights, which finished third in 1A last year. Baker County also out-pointed two fellow District 6-1A teams — Orange Park and Clay — and Region 3-1A rival Bradford, which finished sixth in the state in 2017.

"We're a good weightlifting team. It's not being cocky. It's not being big-headed. It's just recognizing and being a realist of where we are," head coach Scott McDonald said. "Now it's up to us to

continue to embark on the endeavor of winning the state championship. We know we have a chance now. There's tangible evidence we have a chance now."

Three of Baker County's first-place lifters topped their classes by at least 30 pounds. The other first-place lifter, who posted the highest total at the meet, scraped out first by just 10 pounds.

Heavyweight Cooper Hodges overcame a 50-pound deficit in the bench press by posting the heaviest clean and jerk at the invitational, which gave him the 10-pound edge over Bradford's Jacob Alvey. Tyler Burnsed scored with a fourth-place showing, finishing 10 pounds behind third-place lifter Jordan Luke of Bradford.

Defending state champion Dalton Simon, Marcus Dialo and Kyle Griffis each easily won their divisions.

Simon's 85-pound margin of victory in the 169 class was the largest of the meet. William Bloodsaw, who had the third-best bench press in the class, took fifth place, but finished just 10 pounds behind the second-place weight of Bradford's Zion Barber.

Griffis only hit two of his six lifts, but he still managed to top the 238 class by 50 pounds. His bench press was the division's best by 45 pounds and he tied for the best clean and jerk in the class.

Dialo out-muscled second-place lifter Brandon Spivey by 15 pounds in both the bench press and clean and jerk to win the 139 by 30 pounds.

Both Carson Padgett in the 119 and Josh Dialo in the 129 were in the lead entering the final clean and jerk attempt, but they were forced to settle for second place after opponents hit personal record lifts on their last try.

Fleming Island's Ian Ali's final lift

tied Padgett's total, but Ali was given the edge based on body weight. Bartram Trail's Joey Governera topped Josh Dialo's best clean and jerk by 20 pounds, giving him the first-place edge by five pounds.

"You can't be upset about that. That's what competition's about," coach McDonald said. "You got to shake that man's hand and go back to work and next time you meet him try to beat him."

DJ Duran also finished fourth in the 129, coming in 20 pounds back of third place.

Brandon Combs claimed fourth place in the 199 class, finishing 10 pounds behind Orange Park's David Araujo. Combs was unable to hit his third clean and jerk attempt, which would have given him third place by five pounds.

John Green finished fifth in the 154 class, beating out sixth-place by 30 pounds.

Ben Anderson scored in the 219 with a sixth-place outing, and his total was five pounds ahead of Fleming Island's Sam Snyder, who just missed out on scoring points by finishing seventh.

The Cats competed in the 19-team Suwanee Invitational on February 26 in their final regular-season competition. Check next week's newspaper for results. The District 6-1A meet is scheduled for March 10 at Clay, and Baker County will host the Region 3-1A meet on March 24.

Coach McDonald said on February 23 he hoped the lifters would be consistent and technically sound in their lifts to close the regular season.

"You're not going to 20 pounds in four days. You're not going to do that," he said. "But you can get better controlling that weight technically and doing the lift correctly."

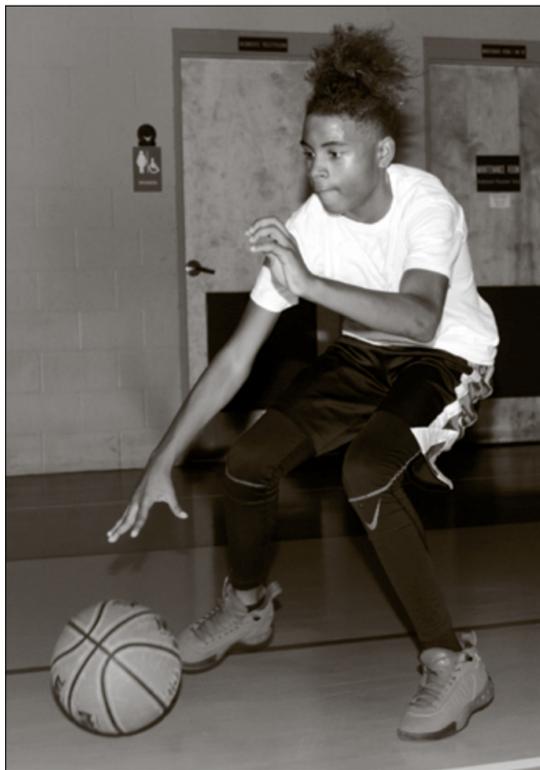
New AAU program holds evaluations

JON SHUMAKE
SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

About 40 youths showed off their basketball skills on February 25 for the BC Legacy Elite during the new AAU basketball program's player evaluations at Glen Baptist Church.

"It looked promising to us. We're ready to get started now," said Marcel Thomas, a



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Jaquise Coleman during a dribbling drill.

BCHS alum who is among the creators of the new program. "... We're about to put teams together and call par-

ents and moving forward with the next step."

The program plans to quickly move ahead with building teams and starting practice. Teams could begin practicing next week, Thomas said, and each squad will likely hold sessions several days a week.

With AAU season already underway, he hopes the BC Legacy Elite will be able to enter a tournament within the next month. Many of the older players are coming off the high school season and should be in game shape, Thomas said, which just leaves implementing the coaching staff's schemes and philosophies in preparation of playing.

Spots are still available for anyone who is interested in playing for the program but missed player evaluations. For more information, contact Thomas at (904) 901-6001 or Bo Clayton at (904) 838-8461.

"We're just excited to bring some positivity and development to Baker County," Thomas said.



Trenton Armstrong

Added charge for dryer theft

A Macclenny couple stopped in a stolen car on Valentine's Day near Baxter has been charged also with burglary and grand theft of a dryer from an unoccupied residence on January 31.

The sheriff's department connected the stolen 1995 Nissan driven by Carol Parker, 27, as the one she and passenger Dustin Crews, 27, were in when they took the appliance from the home of Jasmina and Cornel Jurovski on Cedar Creek Farms Road that day.

A neighbor who had seen the car in the neighborhood earlier spotted it leaving again the day of the theft with the dryer strapped to the top. According to Deputy John Murphy, it ended up at the residence of Ms. Parker's father south of Macclenny.

Based on the license plate reported by the neighbor, police traced the Nissan back to its Jacksonville owner, who claimed it had been at a repair shop there since before Christmas. The shop is owned by suspect Crews' father, and the vehicle owner said Dustin Crews had stolen from him before.

Deputy Murphy had earlier established that a rear door was pried open to gain access to the dryer. A nearby washer was left intact.

More recently, three juvenile males ages 11 and 13 were charged with entering seven unlocked vehicles in a neighborhood off Odis Yarborough Road north of Glen St. Mary during the early morning hours of February 25.

Sgt. Chris Walker used a shoe print match to approach the home of two of the suspects' grandfather on Wildcat Alley nearby the residences of the victims on Smooth Bore and Odis Yarborough roads. The boys admitted under questioning to the burglaries and told Deputy Walker where he could find the third suspect at a nearby house.

The youths then produced items taken from the cars and trucks, including sunglasses, a flashlight, a purse and wallet with credit cards and cash.

The property belonged to Steve Branch, Jeffrey Crews, Kenneth Lee, Vicki Padgett, Virgil Penrod and Cadd Scarborough, who reported an attempted breaking of a shed.

Woman sought on a warrant arrested for Walmart theft

JON SHUMAKE

mation five days earlier.

A Sanderson woman with a local warrant was arrested the afternoon of February 22 for petty theft after she was caught attempting to shoplift \$50.92 worth of items from Walmart.

Store security told police Lisa Hilliard, 27, selected several items and placed them inside her purse. She proceeded to checkout and paid for \$31 worth of food items but did not pay for any of the items in her purse, said Deputy Jacob Satterwhite.

Ms. Hilliard also failed to pay for a paint can in self-checkout and attempted to exit the store before stopped by security.

She told Deputy Satterwhite she only had a certain amount of money on her debit card and she decided to take the other items, which included tangle spray, bronze plates and a marker.

In another shoplifting incident at Walmart, a Macclenny woman turned herself in at the sheriff's office on February 26 after being caught stealing \$27.96 worth of items and providing police with false information.

The woman, later identified as 32-year-old Danielle Farrell, initially gave both store security and police a fake name during the incident, which occurred about midday on February 21. Security told Deputy John Taylor the suspect concealed items at the self-checkout line and proceeded past all points of sale.

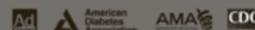
Deputy Taylor followed her to her vehicle after she was released from the store. Ms. Farrell produced a driver's license to identify herself and gave the deputy a social security number. The deputy learned she gave false information after she left the scene when the name didn't match the social security number.

Deputy Taylor also learned that Ms. Farrell had used her sister's name and driver's license, according to the officer's report. He identified Ms. Farrell as an associated name through the sheriff office's master name index, and then positively identified her after searching her driver's license number. A criminal complaint was filed before she turned herself in.

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The newspaper often publishes classified advertising on subjects like work-at-home, weight loss products, health products. While the newspaper uses reasonable discretion in deciding on publication of such ads, it takes no responsibility as to the truthfulness of claims. Respondents should use caution and common sense before sending any money or making other commitments based on statements and/or promises; demand specifics in writing. You can also call the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP to find out how to spot fraudulent solicitations. Remember: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. -The Baker County Press

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Baker County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications for a full-time Truck Driver position in the Solid Waste Department. \$21,320 annually/\$10.25 per hour. Benefits include Florida retirement, paid vacation/sick leave, holidays. This position is full-time; four 10-hour days, Monday-Thursday. Graduation from an accredited high school or possession of an acceptable equivalency diploma required. Class B CDL is required. Valid Florida Driver's License and a clean driving record acceptable to insurance provider. Must be able to carry out written and oral instructions. Former roll-off truck experience a plus. Application and complete job description is available at the Baker County Human Resources office located at 55 North Third Street, Macclenny, FL 32063 or www.bakercountyfl.org/jobs. Deadline for submitting applications is Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 4:00pm.

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Placement, correction or cancellation of classified ads may be done by phone, e-mail or in person anytime before Monday at 5 p.m. for publication on the following Thursday.



Friday, 8:00 am - ?, 8409 East Ben Rowe Circle, Carport sale: Everything is \$1.

Friday & Saturday, 6:00 am - ?, 6965 Odis Yarborough Road. Moving sale with a lot of home decorations and baby items.

Friday & Saturday, 8:00 am - 12:00 noon, 1115 Copper Creek Drive. Women's and children's clothing, collectibles, household items, and much more.

Saturday, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm, 544 Baker Bus Drive, Macclenny. Second Annual BCESP Scholarship Yard Sale: Tons of great stuff, this one is huge, please check this one out!

Saturday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, 980 Red Fox Way (Fox Ridge), Macclenny.

Saturday, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm, 6996 Miltondale Road. Three family sale.

Saturday, 8:00 am - ?, Linda Street. Multi-family sale: Total gym, 2 small refrigerators, etc.

Saturday, 8:00 am - ?, 452 Magnolia Drive. Clothes, furniture, household decor, and much more.

Saturday, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm, St. James Ministries, 280 Martin Luther King Drive. Community sale: clothes, shoes, household items, electronics, and much more.

Saturday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, 7611 West Mount Vernon Street, Glen St. Mary.

Saturday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, 5244 Blue Hole Road, 121 north to Georgia line, follow signs. Huge sale: tools, household, remote control cars, drones, too much to list.

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Johnson on to state wrestling tourney

JON SHUMAKE

SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

One week after capturing the District 3-1A championship, BCHS Wildcat wrestler Jordan Johnson punched his ticket to the state tournament.

The senior finished second out of 14 wrestlers in the 132-pound division at the Region 1-1A tournament, earning him a spot in the Class 1A Florida High School Wrestling State Championships scheduled for March 2 and 3 in Kissimmee.

He posted a 3-1 record at the regional tournament, held February 23 and 24 at Bolles, and picked up two pins and a decision victory to advance for the first-place match.

Johnson had fallen to Damien Stayer by a combined three points in each of the previous two regional meets, including an 8-6 overtime loss last year. Those losses motivated him to overcome Stayer this year, he said, but the rival graduated in 2017.

Still, the effort Johnson put into the season fueled him to the state tournament.

"I mean it wouldn't have mattered anyway because I feel like I put in work and would have been able to beat him," said the three-time regional qualifier. "That was mainly my motivation to beat him. I really wanted just to make it further in this sport. Make it past regionals and make it to state."

Johnson had two first-round pins on the tournament's opening day, topping Godby's Nigel Brown in 1:50 and 1:59 over Marianna's Trenton Faust.

His semifinal match came down to the final seconds, but a late reversal gave him a 6-4 decision victory over Florida High's Nic Timmons



Jordan Johnson

"Everybody, they left it all on the mat, and that's what made me proud."

—Coach Hank Farmer

and sent the Wildcat to the championship match. Coach Hank Farmer said Johnson controlled the majority of the first two rounds, but expended a lot of energy and allowed Timmons to stick around.

"He was picking him up, slamming him back to the ground. It took a lot of energy out of him," coach Farmer said. "... That was the most tired I've ever seen him."

Johnson had about two-and-a-half hours to recover before the championship match against Bishop Kenny's Garrett Tirado. The Bishop Kenny wrestler earned an 11-1 major decision, but Johnson said he was proud to advance to the state tournament.

"It feels really good," he said. "I've been working for

a long time to try and get there."

But he's not just content with making it to the Class 1A tournament. He wants to finish among the best in the state.

"I expect to get a medal. That's what I'm hoping," Johnson said. "That's the ultimate goal is to go in there and place and do well."

Coach Farmer said as long as Johnson competes as hard as he can he won't have any regrets regardless of the outcome.

"Just make sure he goes out there 100 percent every match," coach Farmer said. "If you give it 100 percent every time you're on that mat you'll be satisfied at the end of the day because you know you left it all there."

Dicks finishes just shy of state tournament

In addition to Johnson, Baker County had five other wrestlers qualify for the Region 1-1A tournament, one of whom came one match away from advancing to the state level.

District 3-1A champion Blake Dicks nearly qualified for the state tournament in the 220-pound class, but a pair of close losses in the semifinals and consolation semifinals dashed his dreams.

After a bye and a 5:06 pin victory over Arnold's Casey Peppers, Dicks was one match away from competing for a regional title. He fought hard against eventual regional champion Mason Yost of Bolles, but ultimately fell in a 7-5 double-overtime decision.

The loss put him in the consolation finals, nicknamed "the blood round" due to its high stakes: Win and move on, lose and the season is finished.

Dicks faced off against

Wakulla's Clayton Bussey, who entered the match following a double bye after falling in a 4-3 overtime decision in the second round. Bussey outlasted Dicks 8-7, ending Dicks' season one match shy of qualifying for state.

Tyler Barnett, a 2017 state qualifier, and Devon Cole both won their opening matches before losing their next two.

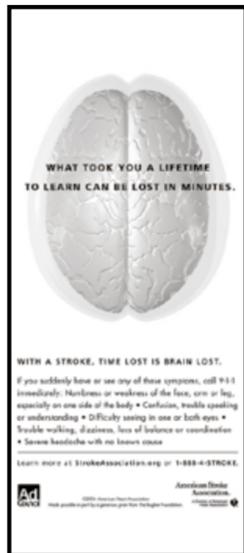
Cole, in the 138 class, beat Mosley's Logan Gall in a close 10-9 decision to open the tournament, but fell via pin to Florida's Maxwell

Metcalfe in 1:26 and in 3:27 to Marquez Chavez of Bolles.

Barnett recorded a 16-2 major decision victory over Deane Bozeman School's Caleb Ward before two hard-fought losses. He was pinned in the second round at 2:57 by Bradford's Jesse Burch before getting eliminated in a 12-10 decision by Bishop Snyder's Pedro Velez.

Jag Knabb in the 145 and Josh Ossmann in the 195 both went 0-2.

"Everybody, they left it all on the mat, and that's what made me proud," coach Farmer said.



Town of Baldwin, Florida First Public Hearing Notice

The Town of Baldwin is considering applying to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for a FFY 2017 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The Town is eligible to apply for up to \$650,000 in the neighborhood revitalization, commercial revitalization and housing rehabilitation categories and up to \$1.5 million in the economic development category. Construction activities funded through the CDBG Program must meet one of the following National Objectives:

1. Provide benefit to low- and moderate-income persons;
2. Prevent or eliminate slum or blight conditions; or
3. Meet a need of recent origin having a particular urgency.

The types of activities that CDBG funds may be used for include constructing stormwater ponds, paving roads and sidewalks, installing sewer and water lines, building a community center or park, making improvements to a sewage treatment plant, and rehabilitating low-income homes. Additional information regarding the range of activities that could be funded will be provided at the public hearing.

In developing a CDBG application, the Town of Baldwin must plan to minimize displacement of persons as a result of the activities. In addition, the Town of Baldwin is required to develop a plan to assist displaced persons.

A public hearing to obtain citizen comment concerning the Town's economic and community development needs will be held at Baldwin—Town Hall, 10 Highway 90, Baldwin, FL 32234, on March 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. For information concerning the public hearing, contact Misty Sloan at (904) 266-5030, Assistant Town Clerk, or by e-mail at msloan@baldwinfl.com.

The public hearing is being conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in the hearing is asked to advise the Town at least five days before the hearing by contacting Misty Sloan at (904) 266-5030. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Town using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800) 955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800) 955-8770 (Voice).

Any non-English speaking person wishing to attend the public hearing should contact Misty Sloan at (904) 266-5030 at least five days prior to the hearing and an interpreter will be provided.

A Fair Housing Workshop designed for the general public, property owners, housing professionals, and local elected officials will be conducted immediately after the public hearing on the same date and at the same location.

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SPORTS

Lady B-Cats: Two no-hitters already

JON SHUMAKE

SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

A new season, another dominant start for the BCMS Lady Bobcats.

The softball team has two no-hitters through its opening three games — and allowed just one hit in the other contest — as it has outscored its opponents 41-0.

Pitchers Madison Lagle and Abby Courson combined for Baker County's second no-hitter of the young season on February 23, and the team run-ruled hosting Lakeside 15-0 in five innings. Lagle, who threw eight strikeouts with a walk in three innings, also batted 2 for 3 with a two-run triple in the fourth inning.

After taking a 2-0 lead in the first inning, the Lady B-Cats gradually pulled away with three runs in the third and fourth frames and seven in the fifth inning. Brooklyn Kennedy also had a multi-hit game, including a first-inning RBI single that gave the team the lead for good.

Krista Crews and Kaylee Rodgers both had a hit and two RBIs.

Courson threw two innings with a strikeout and a walk.

Baker County rolled through its season-opening doubleheader on February 19 at Lakeside, blanking Lake City 11-0 after mercy-ruling Trinity 15-0 in a no-hitter to begin the season.

Lagle and Gracie Norman combined for eight strikeouts as the Lady B-Cats blew out Trinity in four innings.

Emily Griffin and Lagle hit back-to-back home runs in the bottom of the first inning to ignite the rout. Griffin went 2 for 3 with three RBIs, including the two-run homer to left field.

The ladies took advantage of nine Trinity errors in the game. The team scored four runs off errors and another two off wild pitches in its six-run second inning, which quickly turned the season debut into a blowout.

The Lady Cats scored 10 runs during the final two innings against Lake City in the second game of the doubleheader, pulling away late to complete the perfect opening day.

Lagle threw the complete game one-hitter with 17 strikeouts, and kept Lake City at bay as Baker County struggled to push across runs until the final innings.

Emilee McCabe batted 3 for 5 with an RBI single, which sparked the team's six-run sixth inning that put



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Ethan Wilford reaches out for the pickoff attempt against Trinity.

Photo by Jon Shumake



Taylor Mann rounds the base against Lake City.

PHOTO BY DEBBIE PELHAM

the game out of reach.

Kennedy also went 3 for 5 and drove in runs in both the sixth and seventh innings. Griffin had a perfect day at the plate, batting 3 for 3 with an RBI, and Kaylee Rodgers had two hits and an RBI.

Emily Myers, who stole home in the sixth inning, gave Baker County a 1-0 lead in the top of the fourth inning. She reached safely after a fielding error on a bunt, which allowed Emaleigh Raulerson to score.

The middle school program was scheduled to visit Orange Park on February 27. The teams are set to visit Lake City on March 1 before traveling to Lake Asbury on March 6.

B-Cats alternate wins and losses

The BCMS Bobcat baseball team has alternated wins and losses through its first four games, and

most recently fell to Trinity in its home debut after pulling away late to top Lakeside.

Baker County (2-2) twice battled back from deficits to tie the game on February 26, but Trinity scored eight runs in the final two innings to prevail with a 16-9 win.

The B-Cats fell behind 3-0 and 8-3, but were able to recover to tie the game with big innings both times. The team scored three runs in the bottom of the third and five in the fourth to get back into the game.

But the team's pitching struggled with control all game, and it helped Trinity build a cushion in the closing innings.

Baker County's pitchers combined for 10 walks, four hit batters and three wild pitches. Five of Trinity's runs came from players who reached on walks, and two crossed home on wild pitches.

"We put ourselves in a hole. Came out in the first inning and didn't really throw strikes," head coach Kyle Davis said. "When we started throwing strikes they just hit it better than us today."

Trailing 11-8 in the bottom of the sixth inning, the B-Cats loaded the bases with no outs with a prime opportunity to steal momentum. The team only scored one run on Tyce Moore's RBI single, and the squad's best chance to stay in the game disappeared.

"We could have really swung the momentum there but we never really did," coach Davis said.

Brady Chauncey and Moore both had multi-hit games with two RBIs,

and Ethan Wilford also drove in two runs.

Jamil Jones also helped turn a double-play to end the fifth inning, catching a fly ball in center field before getting the force out at second with Chauncey.

A pair of Lakeside sixth-inning mistakes helped the B-Cats extend their lead on February 23 in its 7-4 victory.

Brody Griffis scored a game-high three runs, including reaching home on Jones' sacrifice hit that gave the B-Cats a 1-0 third-inning lead. Griffis also reached safely in the sixth inning on an error when he bunted, which scored Jacob Miller and gave the team much-needed breathing room after Lakeside closed the gap to 5-4.

Griffis also later scored on a balk in the sixth inning for the team's final run.

Early sacrifice hits, such as Jones', helped the B-Cats take an early advantage and hold off any answers Lakeside had. Jase Knabb, who had a fourth-inning RBI ground out, scored on Moore's fly out in the first inning that made it a 2-0 game.

Lakeside cut the score to 2-1 in the bottom of the third inning, and then pulled close again after Baker County had seemingly taken control with a 5-1 advantage. Lakeside scored two runs in the bottom of the fourth and a run off a pick-off error in the fifth to pull within one run before Baker County padded its lead.

Pitchers Chauncey and Dakota Dicks both threw three innings, allowing a combined six hits and two earned runs with three strikeouts.

Cats crush Warriors for second time this season

JON SHUMAKE

SPORTS EDITOR

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The BCHS Wildcat tennis program won 13 out of 14 matches against West Nassau on February 27 as the team rolled past the Warriors for the second time this season.

The boys team topped West Nassau 7-0 while the Lady Cats won 6-1. The top seeds on both sides cruised to lopsided wins in singles action, but Baker County's lower seed winners battled to tight finishes.

Both No. 5 seeds — Parker Ferry and Emily Griffis —



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Brysen Dopson hits the forehand to return the rally.

fought back from deficits to record wins in the tiebreaker.

Ferry, who recovered from falling behind 5-2, had to bounce back from another deep hole in the tiebreaker. West Nassau took a 5-0 lead in the extra period, which is determined by the first player to reach seven points and lead by at least two. Ferry rallied to tie the score at 6-all, but the two traded points to 10-10.

Ferry went up 11-10 on an ace, and then sealed the boys' perfect day after West Nassau's return landed out.

Griffis trailed 8-7 in regulation, but forced the tiebreaker after winning her eighth set. She and her opponent traded points through much of the tiebreaker, but she pulled ahead 7-6 when the West Nassau player double faulted on a serve. Griffis captured the win when her opponent was unable to return her rally, which gave her the match-winning 8-6 advantage.

But outside of those two matches, Baker County was mostly dominant through the remainder of the match-

es.

In singles, Collin Ambrose and Jennifer Romano both won 8-0, while Brysen

Dopson, Arlie Rhoden, Kyrie Holman and Michelle Dukeman were victorious 8-1.

Jacob Smith also picked up a hard-fought 8-6 win in a back-and-forth match.

The doubles team of Rhoden and Smith blanked West Nassau 8-1.

Both girls doubles teams — No.1 seed Holman and Dukeman and No. 2 seed Shelby Nipper and Romano — both won 8-1. Ambrose and Dopson, the top boys team, topped West Nassau 8-2.

Baker County visits Suwannee on March 6 in a District 2-2A meet.

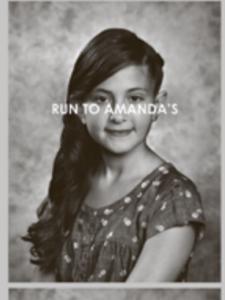
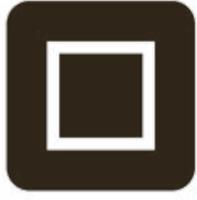


Kyrie Holman hits the backhand.

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Pitchers dominate in team's first win

JON SHUMAKE

SPORTS EDITOR

sports@bakercountypress.com

Pitchers Jordan Vanvactor and Joel Satterwhite combined to throw a two-hit shutout on February 27, and the BCHS Wildcat baseball team won for the first time this season 2-0 over visiting Clay.

Vanvactor, the starting pitcher, threw two strikeouts over four innings of work to record the win. Satterwhite earned the save with three innings on the mound, and limited the Blue Devils to harmless fly balls and ground outs.

Baker County, which has been inconsistent at the plate through the early portion of the season, also managed only two hits.

But the Cats (1-3) turned those hits — fourth-inning singles by Clayt Smith and Cason Milton — into the only runs they needed.

Disaster nearly struck, however, after the team loaded the bases with one out in the inning. Catcher Wade Johnson nearly hit into an inning-ending 6-4-3 double play, but Clay second baseman Zach Morris made a poor throw to first base. The ball rolled against the fence near the first-base dugout, which allowed Smith and Travis Neal to score the game-changing runs.

Both teams had scoring opportunities in the early innings despite hits being hard to come by.

Clay stranded runners at second base in both the first and third innings, and left a runner at third base to end the top of the fourth inning. Baker County left two runners in scoring position to end the first inning after Vanvactor and Hunter Noblitt led off the game by reaching on an error and by getting hit by a pitch.

The Cats remain at home against Ridgeview on March 2 and host Stanton on March 5. The team is then scheduled to travel to Oakleaf on March 6.

Cats winless in Georgia trip

The Cats lost games on back-to-back days to Georgia teams during which Baker County was forced to play catch-up after falling behind.

Pike County scored nine runs in the top of the seventh inning on February 24, turning a close game into a 15-4



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Conner Moore tries to beat the throw to first base.



Shortstop Hunter Noblitt

blowout. The Pirates benefited from five walks and three hit batters in the inning, and

five of the pitching miscues came with the bases loaded to give Pike County free runs.

The disastrous inning came one frame after the Cats scored four runs to put a dent into Pike County's 6-0 lead. Baker County scored on two walks, a single by Colby Kennedy and a sacrifice fly from Johnson to pull within two runs.

The Cats clawed back into the game after struggling at the plate through much of the contest. The Pirates retired 15 of the 17 Baker County batters through the first five innings as Vanvactor recorded the team's only hit until the sixth inning with a third-inning single.

Pike County pulled ahead

early with a four-run first inning and scattered single runs across the fifth and sixth innings.

Baker County lost in a close game that played out in similar fashion the previ-

ous night. The Cats clawed back to tie the game at 5-0, but Lowndes scored one run in the bottom of the sixth inning to escape with a 6-5 victory.

Austin Rose hit the go-ahead RBI double to right field in the bottom of the sixth inning, and Palmer Henderson retired the Cats in order in the top of the seventh to seal the win.

Lowndes took the lead with a four-run third inning, and then added another run in the following frame.

The Cats once again struggled offensively in the first half of the game, giving Lowndes the opening to build the comfortable lead. The Vikings retired 11 straight Baker County hitters before the offense broke through with a three-run two-out rally in the top of the fifth inning.

Noblitt, who hit the game-tying RBI single in the sixth inning, was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to get the team on the board. Neal and Smith both hit run-scoring singles in the fifth inning, and Kennedy scored on an error in the sixth inning to pull the Cats back into the game.

Neal batted 2 for 4 and was the only Baker County player with multiple hits.

JV baseball tops Stanton

The BCHS JV Wildcat baseball team improved to 2-0 on the young season with a 5-2 win at Stanton on February 22.

Cason Milton hit an RBI double in the top of the first inning to give the JV Cats an early lead. The team cruised from there, head coach Brad Stone said, behind four solid innings from Mason Davis on the mound.

"It was just pretty much a team effort," he said.

Four top 10s at Senior Champs

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Macclenny swimmer Braeden Knight finished in the top 10 in four individual events in the 2018 Florida Swimming Spring Senior Championships, held February 22 to 25 in Orlando.

He led Episcopal AmberJax with 62 points, and helped the swim team finish 13th out of 64 programs with 379.5 points.

Knight paced the field in the Boys 15-16 200-yard butterfly with a first-place time of 1 minute, 51.56 seconds, which was a -.67 improvement over his previous best time. He also shaved a little more than a half-second off his third-place time in the division's 100 fly (50.89) and fifth-place time in the 50 fly (23.37).

He also took seventh in the 500 freestyle with a time of 21.93.

Four of the five relay teams Knight competed on finished in the top 20 of the respective events and improved their times by at least two seconds.

The Boys 400 medley relay posted the best showing of his relay teams, coming in 12th with a time of 3:33.22. The 200 medley relay finished 15th (1:38.48) and the 400 freestyle took 16th (3:14.81).

Knight was also a member of the 19th-place Boys 200 freestyle relay, which clocked in a time of 1:29.67.

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Lady Cats 1-0 in district

JON SHUMAKE

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Senior Emma Gipson hit a home run and a double on February 23, and led the BCHS Lady Wildcat softball team to a 5-0 win at Bolles in its District 3-5A opener.

Liz McGovern recorded her first win of the regular season in the lopsided outcome.

The district victory came one night after the Lady Cats (2-2) lost 8-1 at Trinity. Bailey Cooley pitched a complete game three-hitter for the Lady Conquerors, who scored four runs in the first inning and two runs in the second and fourth to put the game out of reach.

Kendall Johnson went 2 for 2 with a double and two RBIs, and Bailey and Amaya Ross both also doubled for Trinity. Desi Connell hit a two-run first-inning single, which gave the Lady Conquerors the lead they never relinquished.

Marissa Rhoden scored Baker County's only run in the second inning when Taylor Crews hit into a fielder's choice.

Kiki Carter doubled in her only at bat in the seventh inning, and McGovern and Catlin Harvin also had base hits.

The Lady Cats were scheduled to travel to Hilliard on February 27. The team is set to play the final game of its season-opening road run on March 2 at West Nassau before making its home debut on March 5 against Paxon.

JV Lady Cats rally falls short

The JV Lady Cats nearly overcame a four-run seventh-inning deficit in their season debut on February 21, but their three-run rally fell just short in a 7-6 loss against visiting Oakleaf.



Emily Lee pitches in the JV game against Oakleaf.

Oakleaf broke a 3-all tie with a four-run seventh inning. It scored off an RBI double and single, and plated two runs on a fielding error.

Baker County surged back in the bottom half of the inning as the first three batters reached base. Alyssa Taylor hit a double off the left field wall one batter before Kenzie Gipson plated Taylor Crews, who wears No. 4, with an RBI single up the middle.

Taylor scored on Kennady Godwin's ground out, and Karli Johnson's RBI single scored Gipson to cut the lead to one run with two outs. But Oakleaf's pitcher ended the rally with a strikeout to end the game.

No. 41 Taylor Crews hit a two-run double off the center field in the bottom of the sixth inning to tie the game at 3-all and set up the dramatic finish.

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